

Moscow pursues Arab dialogue

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet ministers worked hard on Saturday to find a negotiated end to the Gulf crisis, meeting Libyan and Tunisian officials on the eve of a superpower summit in Helsinki. TASS news agency said that before leaving for Finland, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met envoy Abdul Rahman Zouari, secretary-general of Tunisia's ruling Democratic Constitutional Union. Zouari gave details of his country's attempt "to harmonise an all-Arab platform," for settling the conflict, TASS said, adding that both sides "presented similar assessments" of the situation in the Gulf. One of Shevardnadze's deputies, Alexander Belonogov, held talks with a Libyan representative identified as J. Eljani. TASS said the two sides noted their "similarity of views... on many aspects of the tense situation in the region." Moscow has repeatedly called for a diplomatic solution to the crisis since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, urging Arab countries in particular to work together to avoid an escalation of the conflict. Soviet leaders have discussed the issue with a succession of envoys, and despite Moscow's condemnation of Baghdad have kept lines of communication open with Iraq, a long-time ally.

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Baghdad 'furious' with Thatcher

MADRID (Agencies) — Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam said in an interview published Saturday his country was furious with British leader Margaret Thatcher's role in the Gulf crisis. "We are furious with the British position. We believe Thatcher is pushing U.S. President George Bush to take drastic decisions," he told Spain's Diario 16 newspaper. Britain was the first European country to back the U.S. deployment to the Gulf following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Thatcher said she would welcome Soviet involvement in the multinational force in the Gulf. U.S. officials in Helsinki for the superpower summit said Washington would press Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to play a more active role in the Gulf crisis. President George Bush has played down suggestions he would ask for Soviet troops to be sent. Thatcher, visiting Scotland, said the Soviet Union had sent warships to the Gulf before, during the Iran-Iraq war. "I think if Mr. Gorbachev would be prepared to send something, it would be good," she told reporters. About 800 people marched peacefully past the United States embassy in London to protest against the U.S. military presence in the Gulf.

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Water level drops in Galilee

TEL AVIV (R) — The Sea of Galilee, Israel's principal source of fresh water, has dropped to the lowest level ever recorded, Israel Radio said Saturday. The depletion has been caused by heavy pumping, a lack of rain last winter and high temperatures increasing evaporation. The report said the level of the fresh water lake in the northern Galilee region had dropped to an unprecedented 213 metres below sea level and was falling a further centimetre a day. Israel's national water carrier system continues to pump a million cubic metres of water a day from the lake, it said. In addition to the Sea of Galilee problem, water experts have warned that overpumping could contaminate the underground aquifers that provide most other fresh water for Israel.

Yemenis seek prominent Soviet role in Gulf crisis

SANA'A (AP) — The former president of Yemen, Abdullah Al Salih, led a demonstration at the Soviet embassy Saturday demanding that the Soviet Union take a more prominent role in resolving the Gulf crisis. The demonstration of several hundred people was held the day before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was to meet in Helsinki with U.S. President George Bush. "The Soviets have been the traditional friend of the Arabs. We ask you to translate this into a practical solution" for the Gulf crisis, said Al Salih in a speech outside the embassy. "Do not let the United States dominate the issue and... the crisis." The crowd of several hundred included members of parliament and political parties. Al Salih delivered a letter to the Soviet ambassador addressed to Bush and Gorbachev.

Bangladesh, Pakistan discuss Gulf crisis

ISLAMABAD (R) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud arrived in Islamabad Saturday for a two-day visit and talks on the Gulf crisis. He told reporters that his discussions would also cover regional issues and bilateral relations. Mahmud met Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan soon after his arrival and was due to hold talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi Sunday.

Sioux medicine men want to meet Saddam

RICHFIELD (AP) — Seven reclusive Sioux medicine men want to mediate the Gulf crisis, which they fear will bring global devastation. The elders of the Teton Treaty Council of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, have contacted Iraqi officials. "We have sent their proposal to our president in Baghdad and are awaiting his reply," said Riyadh Jawad, an Iraqi embassy attache in Washington. James Fry, director of the Lakota Elders Survival Fund, which provides money and necessities for Indians, said the Sioux medicine men were frightened the Middle East situation could end civilisation. "They have been getting visions that fulfill prophecies thousands of years old," Fry said. "They see the U.S. jets bombing factories in Iraq that will release 'clouds of death' that will circle and devastate the entire planet. It's a chemical or biological weapon that the United States doesn't even know about."

Refugee exodus to Iran virtually halted

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi officials have virtually halted the flow of refugees to Iran, the shortest route home from Kuwait for hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and other Asians, Iranian official news agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. Refugees reaching Iran told IRNA a "large group" of foreigners were being stopped at a checkpoint near the southern Iranian port of Basra while officials checked passports scrupulously. The number of Iraqis crossing the frontier also sharply dropped in recent days, the agency said. Iranian and foreign estimates say anything up to 500,000 Asians might head home through Iran.

Superpowers pledge cooperation in Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

HELSEINKI — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush arrived in Helsinki Saturday for a hastily-arranged summit with both declaring they would work together to defuse the explosive Gulf crisis.

Bush, who was expected to press for a more active Soviet role, said Sunday's brief summit could help bring a new era of peace and security.

Gorbachev arrived several hours later and struck a similar theme in stressing the need for superpower cooperation.

The United States and Soviet Union had to make sure that the relations they had developed in the post-cold war era were not knocked off course by any event, he said.

"I hope this will be an important meeting. We have things to discuss... at such a time personal contact is essential," he said.

Gorbachev praised Finland for rapidly agreeing to hold the summit.

"I hope this meeting will be successful," he said, speaking through a translator.

"It is important for us to meet personally, although we have been in touch in various ways," Gorbachev said, referring to the Gulf situation as an "acute crisis."

The Soviet leader did not outline other matters that might be brought up, but Bush said earlier they would include developments in Europe and arms control issues as well as Gorbachev's reform efforts in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev arrived about seven hours after Bush for their summit at the Finnish presidential

palaces.

The two leaders' summit, their third in less than a year, comes as the West is moving more men and equipment into the Gulf to confront Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

Six more warships — two each from Australia, the Netherlands and Italy — joined the Western armada in the Gulf and seven more U.S. naval vessels passed through the Suez Canal towards Saudi Arabia.

Bush was buoyed by new backing from Arab states. Kuwait pledged \$5 billion and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also agreed to help pay for the 100,000-strong U.S. force in the Gulf.

Egypt, which has already committed several thousand troops, said it was sending more men to Saudi Arabia.

Pressure mounted on Gorbachev to commit some of his forces. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she would welcome such a move but Bush himself said he would not ask for Soviet troops.

The Kremlin leader backs the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq but so far has opposed military action against Iraq.

A senior official travelling with Secretary of State James Baker made clear Washington was examining military options. Some form of military action could be undertaken even while diplomatic efforts and the U.N. embargo were pursued, he said.

U.S. officials stressed the informality of the summit describing it as a relaxed "a la Camp David" meeting.

Among the issues they listed for discussion:

— Possible deployment of Soviet Forces in Saudi Arabia;

— The recall of some 200 Soviet military advisers in Iraq; — Western moves to shore up the crumbling Soviet economy. — A deal to supply Moscow with oil technology in return for Soviet crude.

The officials said no specific agreements would be signed.

Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, who hosted a private lunch for Bush, said in a television interview the summit had "all the prerequisites for success."

Baker was due in Helsinki shortly before Gorbachev after his trip to Middle East.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was with Gorbachev. Speaking Friday on his way back to Moscow from Tokyo, he said he is "ready if necessary" to go to Iraq to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

White House officials minimised the chances for an arms control breakthrough at the summit. "This is not a negotiating session," said one official.

Fateh assails U.S.

The main Palestinian group Fateh Saturday condemned "the double standard" of the United States in the Middle East.

The statement from Fateh, main faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, came on the eve of the Helsinki summit.

Fateh's Revolutionary Command Council "condemned the American administration... which adopts a double standard toward international legality."

It said Washington had used international law to defend its oil interests in the Gulf.

But at the same time it repeatedly used its U.N. Security

Council veto to uphold Israeli violations of international law, it said.

"(The U.S. uses) its veto against this same legality to defend the occupation (of Arab territories) and the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation," it added.

In Alexandria, Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak warned Saturday that disagreement on the Gulf crisis between the U.S. and Soviet presidents at Helsinki would create "a hell of a problem."

He said military action to force Iraq out of Kuwait should come only as a last resort. But he pledged Egyptian backing for Saudi Arabia "by all means."

At the same news conference, Baker said Washington and Cairo agree that the crisis cannot be solved without total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the Kuwaiti government ousted by the Aug. 2 invasion.

Mubarak and Baker briefed reporters after two hours of talks. The joint briefing was a significant gesture by Mubarak, who rarely appears with guests of lower rank.

The Egyptian leader was asked his thoughts about Sunday's summit.

"I hope that Gorbachev and Bush have one line for dealing with this problem," he said. "I don't like any differences, because it will be a bell of a problem in this area if there are differences."

The reply was uncharacteristically strong for Mubarak, who normally is circumspect and reserved.

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Use of force will bring chaos, Saddam warns superpowers

Combined agency dispatches

NICOSIA — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Saturday an attempt by the superpowers to force the Iraqi army out of Kuwait would push the region into chaos.

Saddam also said the "obscene" foreign intervention in Saudi Arabia was hindering a settlement of the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi leader addressed his message to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the eve of their summit in Helsinki, Finland.

His message was read by Iraq's veteran broadcaster, Muqdad Morad, on the state television and radio. Saddam called Bush "heartless," as he referred to U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq.

He said if the superpowers chose to "proclaim yourselves the defenders" of United Nations de-

cisions, then they should see resolutions demanding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories implemented.

He warned that the world's nearly one billion Muslims will eventually view the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia, which houses Islam's holiest shrines, as an insult and rise against it.

"I am not appealing to either of you," Saddam told Gorbachev and Bush. "I am, relying on God."

But before the superpower leaders took their decisions, he said they should remember that Iraq had not invaded either of their countries and had no intention of harming other peoples or the legitimate interests of other states.

Saddam said Kuwait was part of Iraq until it was cut off by British colonialism, an action which had been rejected by previous Iraqi governments, even

those which were pro-Western.

"The attempts of those who wish to restore the situation before Aug. 2 1990 are impractical and futile," he said.

The Iraqi leader said he would "neither plead with you nor dictate" that they leave the issue of Kuwait alone.

But he noted: "Iraq's army did not invade either of your countries and has no intention to harm anyone or jeopardise the legitimate interests of anyone..."

"Neither of you is capable of providing a proper settlement of an Arab problem... we can swear, and God and history are witness to this, that the foreign intervention is complicating matters and will not provide a settlement," Saddam said.

Denouncing the presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia, he said they profaned the shrine of the Kaaba in Mecca and the

(Continued on page 5)

Aziz due in Tehran today; sanction-busting key topic

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrives in Tehran Sunday in a historical visit expected to focus on busting the international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Officials from both sides have declined to comment on the visit but indications are strong that Iraq, which shares an 1,100-kilometre border with Iran, might be willing to reciprocate territorial concessions granted by Baghdad to seal an end to the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Under increasing pressure since its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Iraq last month declared it would remove its troops from pockets of Iranian territory it had held since a ceasefire went into effect in Aug. 1988.

Baghdad also agreed to Tehran's demand that the frontier between the two countries should run along the middle of the Shatt Al Arab, thus dropping

the longstanding Iraqi claim that it should have full sovereignty over the waterway, its key outlet to the sea.

The U.N. imposed its economic embargo on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

Since then, import-dependent Iraq has been seeking ways to get around the land, sea and air blockade.

Aziz will return to Iraq "with his hands full" if Iraq continues its policy towards Iran, said an editorial in Tehran's Jomhuri Islami Saturday.

Foreign observers speculated that Aziz would be bringing "concrete proposals" on ending the territorial dispute that sparked the bitter eight-year war between the two countries.

"Aziz will probably offer Tehran an annex to the 1975 Algiers treaty to provide some way of enforcing that agreement on the borders in the future,"

said a Western diplomat who asked not to be named.

He said the treaty, which split the vital Shatt Al Arab waterway to the Gulf between the two countries has clearly flawed because it had not prevented the war.

"Such an annex would be vitally important because it would represent a de facto peace treaty between Baghdad and Tehran," the diplomat declared.

Huge cartoons depicting Saddam Hussein as a warmonger and a U.S. stooge throwing bombs at Iranian children, which prominently adorned walls along roads leading to Tehran's Mehrabad airport, were being painted over in anticipation of Aziz's visit.

Where the entire wall could not be whitewashed, painters, who reportedly started work earlier in the week, settled for smudging up

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Iraq says Cairo unfit as base for league

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Saturday it would consider "null and void" any decision by Egypt, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies to move the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

A foreign ministry spokesman accused Egypt of pursuing a "destructive role to tear apart" the Arab League by calling for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo next Monday to agree on the move.

"We warn against being pulled into this destructive and suspicious behaviour of the Egyptian government," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying.

"We consider any decision by the Cairo meeting... null and void and holding no commitment from our side," he added.

"Cairo is not fit as a neutral place to host the Arab League after its flagrant bias to the hostile trench and its effective participation in implementing the American plot to invade the Arabian Gulf and profane the Arab and Muslim sanctities."

Britain may permit medicine

The British government said



Over 45,000 Asian evacuees are at three camps near the border with Iraq, awaiting their turn to fly home. Help is trickling into the camps, but officials say they are overwhelmed with the thousands of evacuees continuing to pour in (Petra photo)

Evacuees flood but help trickles into evacuee camps

Combined agency dispatches

RUWEISHED — Help trickled into evacuee camps in Jordan Saturday but officials said they continued to be overwhelmed by demands for food and shelter from tens of thousands of bewildered Asians pouring into the Kingdom.

As some of the countries accelerated the pace of evacuation of their nationals, reports spoke of tens of thousands of others thronging the Iraqi side of the border.

A Jordanian border official quoted by the Associated Press said 225,000 Egyptians were stranded in a huge camp just inside the Iraqi border. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Jordan was withholding permission to cross because of the overcrowding at its refugee camps.

Jordan's resources are inadequate to provide food, shelter and transportation for the 100,000 refugees stranded in camps along its desert border with Iraq.

In Sri Lanka, officials were

appealing for food donations for Sri Lankan refugees in Jordan. The food will be flown to Amman on passenger jets that are returning home empty after refugee airlifts, a Royal Jordanian airline official in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo said.

The 185-seat Airbus jets, chartered by the International Organisation for Migration, have been arriving at a rate of one or two a day for the past week, the airline official said.

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, which earlier in the week flew a group of Western women and children out of Iraq, said Saturday that he was hoping to get another jet to Amman on Sunday with 40 tons of medical supplies and food.

He is waiting for clearance to fly out some of the 100,000 Asians stuck in refugee camps in the desert, he said.

Relief officials have warned of unsanitary conditions at the makeshift desert camps, and Friday one said the refugee problem could turn into a disaster.

At one of the camps, laboratory tests were ordered on four tons of

canned beef from the Netherlands after tons of cookies, powdered milk and dates sent to hungry refugees were deemed unfit for human consumption.

The canned beef was part of the second food shipment to reach the camp. India earlier donated 10,000 sandwiches and 5,000 barrels of water.

The United States will dispatch 27,000 metric tons of rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour to the camps, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said Friday. But the food might not be shipped until the end of the month.

The White House, meanwhile, announced that Bush had released \$10 million from an emergency fund to aid refugees in Jordan and other Middle East countries. Of that, officials said, \$7.5 million would be used to transport refugees to their homes and \$2.5 million help private relief organisations.

The sum brings the total U.S. cash emergency relief aid to \$28 million.

The Jordanian government and

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. signals possible soft line on food shipments to Iraq

HELSEINKI (Agencies) — The United States appeared to be taking a softer line on its rejection of food shipment to Iraq, saying Washington was not opposed to sending food to Iraq if it was proved that the people of Iraq were starving.

Agencies reported American officials travelling aboard Air Force One with President George Bush to Helsinki, Finland, for Sunday's superpower summit as saying that the U.S. administration, which has said that there was no shortage of food in Iraq and Kuwait, might reconsider its position. No further details were available.

Britain may permit medicine

The British government said

Saturday it would allow medicine to be exported to Iraq and Kuwait.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said the decision was in line with United Nations sanctions on Iraq.

"Security Council Resolution 661 makes clear that the export of medical supplies to Iraq and Kuwait is permissible."

"In the light of this, Her Majesty's government decided to grant a number of licences through commercial channels for the export of certain medical products to Iraq," it said in a statement.

U.N. Resolution 661 includes an exemption from enforcing sanctions on "humanitarian

grounds" and specifies "products for strictly medical purposes."

A DTI spokesman said the decision was the result of discussions within the European Community, and the U.N. was being informed.

He said that there had been a number of applications for licences to export medicine but was unable to say how many had been granted.

"It will be medicine for civilian use," he said. "What it will not be is any raw chemicals that could be converted."

On Wednesday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said children were already dying because they were being denied food and medicine by U.N. sanctions.

Iraq says direct airlift allowed from Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

NICOSIA — Iraq has no reason to reject any requests by western governments to fly women and children out of Kuwait as the United States and Canada have done, Information Director Naji Al Hadithi said Saturday.

Using chartered Iraqi planes, the United States on Friday started an airlift to Baghdad of dependants stranded in Kuwait since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of the emirate. The men are being kept back as a deterrent against attack on Iraq.

The first plane stopped off in Baghdad to complete Iraqi exit formalities before carrying some 170 Americans to Amman.

Hadithi confirmed a Washington report that a second plane was due to fly more Americans out of Kuwait to Amman via Baghdad

Saturday. Canada organised a similar airlift on Thursday, ferrying women and children from Kuwait to Baghdad and then on to Ankara. Asked if other Western governments could organise similar airlifts, Hadithi said by telephone from Baghdad that all could leave Kuwait by air or bus since President Saddam Hussein decided that Western women and children were free to leave.

"It is up to the embassies concerned" to organise the evacuation, he said.

"It is a commercial question. If a request is made to Iraqi Airways, there is no reason why it should be rejected," he said.

West European governments have so far organised bus convoys to take their dependants from Kuwait to Baghdad.

"The Iraqi announcement came just as most obstacles seemed to have been cleared from the air highway out of Iraq, and put another stumbling block in the quickest route for westerners stranded in Baghdad and Kuwait."

Exit visas were being issued more quickly than at the start of the week, and Iraq was allowing at least two direct charter flights from Kuwait City to Amman.

Since the exodus of foreign women and children from Iraq and Kuwait began, Amman airport has been the primary transit point for thousands of westerners.

The Jordan News Agency Petra, reported Saturday that 14,000 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, including Arabs, Asians and Westerners, departed from Am-

man airport abroad 66 charter flights Friday.

Those arriving Iraqi Airways charters usually transfer immediately to other planes for the journey to their home countries. Iraq had been allowing up to three charter flights a day from Baghdad to Jordan.

Meanwhile, Iraq halted all charter flights to Jordan, saying Amman was so swamped with refugees from Iraq and Kuwait that it would not cope with any more.

Hadithi told reporters in Baghdad that Jordanian airport officials had complained they could no longer handle the hundreds of foreigners that have been pouring into Amman for the past week.

He said the charter flights Saturday to Amman would be the last, but that charters might be arranged to other destinations.

Palestinians pin hopes on superpower summit

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian leaders in the Israeli-occupied territories are pinning hopes on the superpower summit in Helsinki to bring their cause back to world attention after being overshadowed by the Gulf crisis.

Encouraged by signs that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may propose an international conference on the Middle East during talks with U.S. President George Bush Sunday, they said the idea would help defuse the Gulf crisis.

"We hope that the summit will deal with the Palestinian question on an equal footing with the Gulf crisis," Faisal Al Hussein, the pre-eminent Palestinian leader in the occupied territories, said Saturday.

"International legitimacy should apply in the case of Kuwait and to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land," he told Reuters.

Palestinian leaders said U.S.-

Soviet agreement on such a conference could give Baghdad a way out of its seizure of Kuwait while still saving face.

"Both sides are looking for a way out of the crisis because they realise that war in the Gulf would bring destruction to them. But they need a formula that would make each of them appear victorious," said Riyadh Al Malki, a leading West Bank Palestinian academic.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who has refused to discuss withdrawal from Kuwait, indicated last month he would consider withdrawal if Israel left occupied Arab territories and Syria pulled out of Lebanon.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze this week floated the idea of convening an international conference to resolve the Gulf crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese civil war.

The U.S. reacted coolly and Israel's right-wing government rejected the idea.

Palestinians waging the uprising to end Israeli rule over the West Bank and Gaza Strip have

supported Iraq in the Gulf crisis. Local leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) say Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait but tie that to the pullout of Western forces from the Gulf.

Eleven nationalist figures, including Hussein, signed a letter sent to both superpower leaders urging them to discuss the Palestinian problem and appealing for action to solve the chronic conflict.

The Soviet Union has supported the PLO's call for an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Some Palestinians, citing standing U.S. and Israeli opposition to the idea, doubted Bush would agree to the international conference.

An Israeli expert on Soviet affairs said, however, he thought the U.S. leader might agree.

"It may still buy it," Amnon Sela, of the Hebrew University, said. "One should bear in mind that there are here the rudiments of the ideas that probably will be toyed with by the two superpowers after the crisis in the Gulf is resolved."

Fateh vows to evict Abu Nidal from South Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — With shells raining down and street battles raging, Palestinians supporting Yasser Arafat vowed Saturday to fight until followers of Abu Nidal are driven from southern Lebanon.

Smoke from out-of-control fires billowed over the port city of Sidon and its Palestinian shantytown. Hospital and security sources said at least 49 people had been killed and 180 wounded since the fighting broke out Friday afternoon.

"Abu Nidal is a threat to our cause," said Zaid Wehbeh, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We have decided to end the presence of Abu Nidal's followers

in the Sidon area," he told reporters in the city 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Wehbeh's vow followed an appeal by some 15 delegates of Lebanese groups for an immediate ceasefire, political, sources said. They called a strike to protest the fighting.

Fighting continued despite reports by security sources that members of Mustapha Saad's Popular Liberation Army and the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic group were on the streets of Sidon to stop the shooting.

The sources said machinegun, rocket and artillery battles between guerrillas of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council

(FRC) and the PLO raged in Sidon and the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp.

"Running street battles are going on inside Sidon now. Shells are also falling nearby at a rate of six every minute," a Sidon resident said by telephone from an underground shelter.

Police reported that hundreds of guerrillas from Arafat's Fateh faction, the main group in the PLO, were attacking dihard bands of Abu Nidal men from all sides after overrunning their main strongholds Friday.

Cars and apartment buildings blazed out of control as the thud of exploding shells and the rattle of machine gun fire echoed around 'Ain Al Hilweh and Sidon.

Text of EC foreign ministers' statement

ROME (R) — Following is the full text of a declaration on the Gulf crisis by foreign ministers of the European Community meeting in Rome Friday.

The European Community and its member states reaffirm their full support for the implementation in all aspects of the resolutions of the Security Council relating to the crisis in the Gulf and their determination to be active in ensuring that they are respected.

The European Community and its member states are convinced that a complete implementation of the embargo decided by the Security Council with regard to Iraq is the essential condition for bringing about a peaceful solution to the crisis. They are fully implementing the embargo and call on all members of the international community to do likewise.

The Community and its member states are conscious of the grave burden which the present crisis imposes on the economies of many countries. They are therefore determined to contribute to the effort being made by such countries to address the situation and faithfully implement the embargo.

Countries most immediately affected by the implementation of the embargo, and notably Egypt, Jordan and Tur-

key, have applied for assistance to offset those short-term effects. The Community and its member states have taken a decision on the principle of extending such short-term financial assistance to these three countries. This assistance will take place in the framework of concerted action with other industrialised countries as well as with the countries of the region.

The general affairs council will take appropriate decisions at its forthcoming meeting on the basis of commission proposals and the results of consultations with third countries.

In this situation, it is essential that international cooperation be intensified and that the international institutions (International Monetary Fund, World Bank, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other bodies like the Paris Club) play their full role. The newly created European Bank for Reconstruction and Development should also contribute to the solution of the difficulties for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It is of crucial importance that all efforts be made to prevent the affected economies turning in on themselves.

In addition to the humanitarian aid already provided, a major effort is necessary to assist in the repatriation of

refugees from Iraq and Kuwait. The Community is ready to commit a substantial amount from its own budgetary resources for additional humanitarian aid. Member states will contribute to the joint effort, notably by providing transportation facilities.

The Community and its member states reiterate their readiness to continue the political dialogue and to strive for an early opening and a rapid conclusion of the trade agreement negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The Community will speed up work already under way concerning the intensification of the Community's Mediterranean policy.

The European Community and its member states are moreover resolved to contribute to the bringing into being of a policy of regional cooperation aimed at influencing, in a constructive way, the solution of structural problems which afflict the Mediterranean area and the Middle East under the aspects of stability and of economic and social well-being.

The forthcoming Palma meeting in the context of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe will be an important occasion to contribute to the much needed longer-term reflection on these problems.



AL RUWEISHED CAMP: Tens of thousands of Asian evacuees are in camps near the border awaiting their turn to be flown home from

Amman after arriving from Kuwait across the Jordanian-Iraqi border (Petra photo)

Iraq denies linking food and evacuation India appeals to summit

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh is appealing to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to allow food and medicine to be sent to Iraq in return for direct evacuation of Asians from Kuwait, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

"Singh is sending a message to the two leaders at their summit in Helsinki (on Sunday) that India, which has over 150,000 of its nationals stranded in Kuwait, has a right to feed its citizens," said the diplomatic source.

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said New Delhi was told by "the Americans and Europeans" that there was no need for any dispatch of food to Iraq but the Indian government retorted that "information available to it was to the contrary, and that it cannot allow its nationals to starve in Kuwait."

The Indian position is based on the argument that "international sanctions can never be used to starve a people, no matter what the circumstances, and this will be made clear in Singh's message to the

superpowers," according to the source.

Reports in India have indicated that United Nations officials had told the government that they are not in a position to rule that food and medicine were exempted from the Security Council-imposed sanctions against Iraq.

According to the source, "the Americans have taken a strong stand against India sending any food to Kuwait and indicated that the repercussions could be heavy."

Iraq Saturday denied that it had attached a precondition that any direct airlift of Indians from Kuwait or Iraq would be in return for supply of food and medicine. But the source

said in addition to direct airlifts, Baghdad had also informed New Delhi that any self-initiated Iraqi or Kuwaiti ports as well as Iraqi permission for Indians to cross the border into Iran to be ferried from an Iranian port were conditional on dispatch of food.

According to other sources, shortage of food is slowly becoming acute in Kuwait, particularly in light of the declared Iraqi policy that its army will be given priority in food supplies before its own citizens and expatriates.

India has ships carrying foodstuffs standing by key

ports ready to sail to Kuwait any time it gets the green signal from the U.N. or the U.S., according to the source.

Iraqi Information Director Najji Al Hadithi was quoted on Sunday as saying that "there are no preconditions, we have given India permission for their planes and ships to evacuate these nationals."

Indian Foreign Minister Indira Singh Gujral told parliament in New Delhi Friday that Iraq had advised India to start the evacuation of Indians "will not be permitted until the aircraft or ships deployed for repatriation brought food."

Hiring of Iraqi planes was subject to the same condition, he said.

Hadithi said Iraq had imposed no conditions on the evacuation. "They are free to go," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

But he said India and other nations had been told through the International Red Cross that blockaded Iraq could not be responsible for feeding their large expatriate communities.

"We told them to bring in food and medicines quickly... we are not responsible for providing food and medicines for foreign nationals, especially such large numbers," he said.

U.S. officials say only U.N. body can authorise food

UNITED NATIONS (R) — No current food emergency exists in Iraq as a result of U.N. sanctions and, pending any decision by the Security Council, individual countries have no right to decide for themselves when exceptions might be made to the embargo, United States officials in New York said Friday.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was meanwhile being asked by the council's sanctions committee to ascertain the food situations in Iraq and in Kuwait, they noted.

This would enable committee and the council to determine under what circumstances food stuffs might be allowed to enter Iraq.

But even then, they should be channelled through humanitarian agencies, not commercial or government bodies, to ensure shipments were not diverted away from food resources, first, to its army then to Iraqi citizens and last to foreign nationals, thousands of whom have been prevented from leaving Iraq and Kuwait.

When the Security Council imposed mandatory economic sanctions against Iraq Aug. 6 for its invasion of Kuwait an exception

was made for "supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs."

The U.S. officials said they interpreted this to prohibit the supply of foodstuffs unless and until the council decided otherwise, but there was no prohibition at all on the good faith provision of medicines.

Replying to questions, they drew a distinction between the chartering by Western countries of Iraqi planes to repatriate their nationals from Iraq and Kuwait, and attempts by some countries to send food shipments.

Regarding possible follow-up measures by the Security Council, the U.S. officials said it could include an air embargo, a tightening of existing restrictions on shipping and further limitations on Iraqi diplomatic personnel. But no decisions had yet been made, they added.

Iraq said Saturday the United States was blocking children's milk and food shipments ordered before the United Nations ordered the embargo.

It also accused the United States of receiving cargoes of Iraqi oil loaded before its invasion of Kuwait which prompted the sanctions.

"President Bush himself and through his military and intelligence apparatus... is working on preventing, really preventing, the arrival of milk and food shipments," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a Commerce Ministry official as saying.

He said large amounts of children's milk ordered by the ministry from international firms had been seized in Bulgaria and Turkey.

The official said the shipments were ordered and paid for before Aug. 6, when the U.N. Security Council slapped the embargo on Iraq.

"Meanwhile, the U.S. administration allowed itself... to receive Iraqi oil cargoes shipped before Aug. 2," INA, monitored in Cyprus, quoted the official as saying. It gave no details.

Iraq has ordered some restaurants closed to conserve food and exempted farmers from a military call-up, and there are signs that resolve to enforce the embargo is waning.

China has said the embargo does not cover food, India and the Philippines, with thousands of nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, say they want to send food to "immune third parties" there.

Iraq says Red Cross deal unacceptable

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Saturday it did not accept Red Cross proposals that could have brought Iraq food in exchange for access to trapped foreigners because the deal would have assumed Baghdad was at war with its Western foes.

Information Director Najji Al Hadithi told Reuters that Iraq rejected any deal based on a clause in the Geneva conventions which "refers to third parties with which the host country is in a state of war."

Hadithi, commenting by telephone from Baghdad on remarks by the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross Cornelio Sommaruga, said: "We are not in a state of war with those countries."

Sommaruga told a Geneva news conference Friday that in exchange for helping foreigners trapped in Kuwait and Iraq, the Red Cross would have sought U.N. permission to ferry medicine and essential food to Iraq's civilian population during a trade embargo.

The deal was almost sealed but it fell through when (Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq) Aziz cancelled a last meeting we were due to have on Friday," he said after returning from more than six hours of talks in Baghdad.

Sommaruga said he had no explanation for Iraq's sudden change of attitude, which prevents the Geneva-based ICRC from carrying out its traditional mission of providing protection and assistance to victims of conflicts.

Hadithi said that Iraq had asked the ICRC to help Iraq obtain food and medicine for humanitarian reasons and without conditions.

"This is a humanitarian question because America and its allies are imposing a blockade," he said.

"We reject an agreement based on such a clause (in the Geneva conventions) because Iraq is not in a state of war with those countries," he added.

Sommaruga said the deal would have enabled ICRC officials to visit Westerners barred from leaving Iraq, those allowed to go but not yet able to do so and Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq hands.

He said Iraq had argued strongly during the talks that the ICRC a mandate to protect civilians in times of war did not apply in the current Gulf crisis since Iraq was not involved in an armed conflict.

"I told them they did apply, since even in the absence of an armed conflict the conventions humanitarian dispositions towards civilian populations stand," he added.

"The Iraqis knew the ICRC was ready to use its good offices with the United Nations to secure authorisation to ship humanitarian assistance comprising medicine and essential foodstuffs," Sommaruga said.

Medical supplies are excluded from the trade embargo, imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2, as are foodstuffs "in humanitarian circumstances."

Baker, on his first Middle East tour since taking office 20 months ago, said he had discussed regional security with Mubarak and "how best to guarantee peace and stability in the 'Persian' Gulf after we get beyond the current crisis."

Mubarak, who called on all nations to abide by United Nations sanctions against Iraq, said he also discussed the Middle East peace process with Baker.

In a reflection of the rift between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mubarak also said "the peace process is not only (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat, it is the Palestinian people."

"So anything done by Yasser Arafat does not mean we are going to stop dealing with the Palestinian problem."

The PLO-Egypt rift appeared in May when Cairo's press published alleged leaks of criticism directed at Egypt by Arafat during an Arab League meeting in Tunis. Differences over Middle East peace strategy later surfaced and the PLO support of Iraq in the Gulf crisis has widened the gap.

Baker pledged continued U.S. support for a Middle East peace settlement but emphasised the need to separate the Gulf crisis from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mubarak later discussed the Gulf crisis with French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement who was on a visit scheduled before the invasion of Kuwait.

There is support for the presi-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
18:20 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:45 Cartoons
18:10 Documentaries
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical Music
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in Arabic
22:30 This Air

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 Sunrise (Dhuhr)
12:25 Dhuhr
14:06 Asr
18:56 Maghreb
20:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swediteh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 667757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772551
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683206
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 16 / 25
Aqaba 23 / 29
Dana 15 / 31
Jordan Valley 22 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hanna Medical Centre 812813/32
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 664174
Palestine, St. Joseph 691311
University Hospital 645845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/8
Baitan, Al-Muhajir 771013
Al-Basir, J. Abdali 775117/25
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602405/55
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)896732

DEED:
Process Basma Hospital (02)275555
Grace Catholic Hospital (02)272275
De Al-Safien Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Process Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
The information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)3200-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:45 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:45 Paris, Rome (RJ)
17:45 Madrid (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Istanbul (RJ)

18:45 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:50 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)

USEFUL NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Waheed Samad 683266
Dr. Akram Samad 894611
Dr. Majida Abu Samad 881635
Dr. Mohammad Imara 635999
First pharmacy 622520
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asman pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Saleem pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shanoush pharmacy 637660

DEPARTURES

DEED:
Dr. Ali Shagari (—)
Al Shawa pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shaban (—)
Khaldat pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630541
Rescue 630541
Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 661101
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 625101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680103
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 Rome (AZ)
09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
14:30 Dubai (EK)
16:00 Doha, Muscat (GF)
18:25 Sanaa (LH)
23:30 Athens (OA)

20:35 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 London (RJ)
13:45 Istanbul (RJ)
17:15 Amman (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Calcutta, Singapore (RJ)
23:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:35 Rome (AZ)
06:15 Larnaca (CY)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
14:30 Tripoli (LN)
16:00 Doha, Muscat (GF)
18:25 Sanaa (LH)
23:30 Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apples 620 / 500
Bananas 500 / 450
Bananas (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 360 / 300
Cabbage 120 / 100
Carrot 240 / 200
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Corn 180 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 140 / 90
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Eggplants 150 / 100
Figs 430 / 350
Garlic 800 / 700
Grapes 350 / 300
Grapes (small) 450 / 220
Lemon 260 / 200
Mallow 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 220 / 180
Onions (dry) 450 / 400
Onions 300 / 250
Peas 620 / 500
Peas 700 / 600
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 220 / 180
Potatoes 400 / 350
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 550 / 500
Sweet melon 240 / 200
Tomatoes 130 / 100
Watermelons 130 / 100

JD 1m in energy savings reported

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government decision last month to reduce energy consumption at government offices, streets and public squares is bound to save JD 1 million annually, according to Asem Ghosheh, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources secretary-general.

"The ministry welcomes any request from the public to help reduce energy consumption at homes, in factories, companies and other organisations and is ready to offer advice on refrigeration, transport, solar heaters and insulation matters to help save energy," Ghosheh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saturday.

A government communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran said on Aug. 19 that public offices would not be lit during day office hours and no air conditioning would be allowed either.

Lighting of streets and public squares will be cut by half and other necessary measures could be taken soon in the course of saving energy, said the communiqué.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources at the same time issued a call to the public to reduce energy consumption and do its best to prevent wasting of energy resources.

It said that Jordan consumes three million tonnes of fuel annually, of which 800,000 tonnes are used to generate electric power.

Ghosheh said energy and electricity information and advisory centres in Jordan would continue to provide services to the public. The staff will be increased and the office hours extended to help provide advice on energy matters.

These offices are found in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, the most densely populated areas where factories and businesses are concentrated.

Ghosheh said that the government's current measures were designed to reduce the country's annual oil bill under the present circumstances and to enable Jordanians to use alternative sources of energy as much as possible.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah said last month that cuts in energy consumption save the country up to 40 tonnes of crude oil a day; most of the oil needed for generating energy is imported from Iraq.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was reported installing power generators at Al Risbeh gas fields near the Iraqi border and according to officials, the total energy produced by using gas will cover one quarter of the total amount of power needed for the Kingdom, up from 15 per cent at present.

Second convoy with aid for Iraqi children leaves Amman

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Twenty 40-tonne trucks carrying milk, medicines and foodstuffs for the children of Iraq were seen off by hundreds of people, most of them women and children, at the Seventh Circle area Saturday afternoon.

The convoy, carrying a total of 320 tonnes of commodities for Iraq, was organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which had issued a nationwide appeal for the donation of milk for the children of Iraq two weeks ago.

"We have received over JD 400,000 worth of donations, most of them from poor people, and the efforts are continuing in spite of Jordan's limited capabilities," GUVS chairman, Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, told the Jordan Times.

Describing the nature of the donations as "a token gesture" of solidarity with the Iraqi people, Al Khatib said that "these donations" carry a clear message to the whole world: to remind the leadership of the international community — namely Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Bush — that the rights of children were declared 40 years ago, and therefore, Jordan will not accept a blockade which could lead to the starvation of more than 9 million Iraqi children.

According to officials from the voluntary societies, a large proportion of the donations were contributed by international organisations, such as the World Council of Churches. In addition to that, private persons, most of them hardly able to support themselves, had spared no effort to help the Iraqi people in overcoming the blockade enforced on Iraq by Western forces operating in the Gulf.

"Seeing old men and women sacrificing a substantial part of their meagre pensions to support the struggle of the Iraqi people strengthens your belief in the greatness of the Arab Nation," a GUVS official said.

Dr. Al Khatib denied allegations that the current activities of the voluntary unions would deprive needy Jordanians of desperately needed services, saying that the unions' efforts to provide food and other basic commodities for Iraqi children would not collide in any way with the unions' local activities.

The twenty truckloads of goods, described as "a gift from the Jordanian children to the Iraqi children," were presented to representatives of the Iraqi People's Committee in the presence of the wife of the Iraqi Ambassador in Jordan.

Chairman of the Iraqi People's Committee Abdul Wahab Al Halabli thanked the Jordanian children and people for their efforts, saying that "the generation of Iraqi children now benefitting from Jordanian donations would always be grateful to Jordan for this noble gesture."

Two convoys comprising 40 trucks have already transported 520 tonnes of goods to Iraq over the past few weeks, and according to Al Khatib, a third convoy could be dispatched during the next week if the pace of the donations continued at the current rate.

People race to renew family books

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Affairs and Passports offices around the country, throng with citizens wishing to renew their family registration books in order to benefit from the food rationing programme that came into effect on Sept. 1, 1990, but the Civil Affairs and Passports Department Director Issa Al Omari said that most of these citizens would have an unpleasant surprise.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Omari said that most of those applying for a renewal of their family registration books have violated the law by failing to renew the documents within three months after their expiry date.

"These citizens seem to have remembered to renew the family registration books only when they found that they were needed to obtain ration cards that enable them purchase subsidised rice, milk and sugar," Omari said.

To date, the department issued 634,000 family books to people in Jordan and nearly 200,000 of those have expired without being renewed.

According to regulations, Omari said, those failing to renew family registration books in three months after expiry date face trial and the payment of a fine.

"The department will study each application separately before referring people to the specialised courts and will renew the family registration books only after the payment of a required fine specified by the courts," Omari said.

"At the same time contacts are underway with the Ministry of Supply to discuss an extension of the period the public has to obtain ration cards and coupons until all books have been renewed," Omari added.

Most of the citizens applying for a renewal told Petra that they were unaware of a law imposing fines for failure to renew family registration books within three months of their expiry.

They said that the announcement of the Ministry of Supply that it would issue ration cards to those holding valid family registration books prompted them to apply for a renewal. They said that the general belief was that the family books were official documents serving for all times and purposes.

Emergency relief rice from WFP arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first shipment of emergency relief rice from the World Food Programme (WFP) arrived in Amman at midnight Thursday aboard an Antonov aircraft returning from Dhaka to pick up a second load of Bangladesh evacuees, WFP announced.

A second shipment of rice was expected late Saturday. The Antonov is expected to bring in 100 tonnes of rice on each of its nine return flights from Dhaka. The total quantity of rice to be brought from Bangladesh is 950 tonnes. Several bags of curries will also be brought on board.

The rice, intended for the people in transit through Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq, is released from the WFP stocks for development projects in Bangladesh as part of the programme's emergency operation for the evacuees. WFP, the food aid arm of the United Nations, is providing 9,828 tonnes of food commodities, part of which (1080 tonnes) has already been released from its stocks in Amman and distributed in different sites.

Arrangements to airlift rice on the Antonov returning empty to Amman were concluded in less than three days, thanks to the close cooperation of the government of Bangladesh, which speeded normal procedures and provided loading free of charge, and the swift effort and assistance received from the government of Jordan.

The aircraft bringing the rice was chartered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) to fly Bangladeshis nationals stranded in Jordan back to their home country. The government of Jordan and the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provide the trucks and the people to unload the rice.

The WFP has also chartered another Antonov 124, which arrived in Amman early Saturday morning, bringing 120 tonnes of canned fish from West Germany. In addition, WFP is buying 216 tonnes of red lentils in Syria to be trucked overland to Jordan.

Labour unions urge Arab peace plan for the Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — The central council of the Federation of Arab Labour Unions, which held a meeting in Tunis recently, demanded an immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Gulf region and the implementation of an Arab peace plan to settle the issue, according to the head of Jordan's delegation to the federation's meeting Abdul Halim Khaddam.

"The council expressed the Arab labourers total rejection of the American-led imperialist policies implemented in the Arab region with the aim of subduing the Arab Nation and of stealing Arab oil wealth," Khaddam said in a statement upon returning to Amman from Tunis.

He said the council demanded that all Arab workers boycott the handling of goods, vessels and aircraft belonging to countries imposing economic blockade on Iraq and demanded that Arab oil wealth be used to serve the causes of the Arab Nation.

The council's emergency session, attended by representatives of various Arab labour unions, deplored the ongoing onslaught on Iraq by imperialist forces and the attempts to subjugate and humiliate the Iraqi and the Arab people.

"The current campaign and the blockade are designed to deprive the Arab Nation of the means to build its socio-economic structure and to prevent Arab unity," Khaddam said in a statement.

This meeting has enhanced cohesion among the various Arab labour unions and demonstrated awareness on the part of the members of the Arab labour movement.

Lifting the blockade now imposed on Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf can pave the way for a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, the council said.

Khaddam, who is secretary-general of the Federation of Arab Labour Unions, attended the meeting with Abdul Razzaq Saeed, the federation's secretary for foreign relations.

JNRCS head says no cholera in camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite an outbreak of cholera in a number of Arab countries none of the evacuees now housed at Roweished and Shaalan One camp is infected, and medical attention is given to all expatriates around the clock, according to Dr. Mohammad Siyab, head of a medical team at the two camps, employed by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

Jordanian medical teams, set up by JNRCS, deal with up to 1,500 different cases daily in the two camps inhabited by 20,000 evacuees. Dr. Siyab said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Siyab said teams of doctors treat cases of sunstroke, diarrhoea, fits of hysteria, epilepsy, cuts and bruises in addition to cases of arthritis and pulmonary inflammations, and that nearly 10 to 15 cases, including delivery, are referred to hospital every day.

The medical care is provided free of charge and extra care is taken to ensure that no cholera cases broke out among the evacuees who are mostly Asian nationals fleeing Kuwait to Jordan, Siyab said.

Meanwhile the JNRCS has embarked on setting up another camp in Azraq in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura said that the continuous arrival here of in-kind assistance from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Thailand has enabled the two humanitarian societies to pursue relief operations and to embark on setting up a new camp.

Abu Qoura said that these countries had been providing various amounts of tents, blankets, food supplies, powder milk and canned food.

Abu Qoura said Saturday that JNRCS had dispatched yet another of its medical teams to the two camps within the border region to help the other teams, sent earlier there, cope with the growing number of expatriates arriving at the camps.

Queen Noor visits Ruweished

RUWEISHED (AP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor made the day for tens of thousands of bedraggled Asian evacuees from Kuwait on Saturday, bringing them words of comfort at their squalid desert camp.

The Queen toured the camp shaking hands with the evacuees and assuring them, "we are doing everything possible to get you home."

Queen Noor was surrounded by brown-skinned Bangladeshis, Pakistani and Indian men and women shouting, "Please help us. We have no food, no water, you are our only hope."

One mother shoved her baby in front of the Queen, sobbing: "You are a mother, my child is dying, please help us."

The Queen, who was accompanied by Health Minister Mohammad Al Zaben, immediately asked that the mother and child be taken to the camp's medical tent.

"Don't worry, we are coming with you to the hospital," the Queen told the mother, stretching out her hand to wipe the tears flowing on the woman's cheeks.

The Queen flew by helicopter over the camp, housing more than 40,000 refugees in a square mile of arid desert next to the Iraqi border, 340 kilometres from Amman.

After seeing the hundreds of makeshift tents, pieces of cloth or coloured women's saris tied to sticks, she started a tour of the camp in a four-wheel-drive car, driving herself.

She stopped more than a dozen times, getting out of the car to talk and mingle with the evacuees who clustered around her.

She walked in dusty, litter-strewn passages between rows of rough tents.

"We understand how you feel, you are not forgotten," the Queen kept saying to the throngs pressing around.

"We are doing our utmost to find a way to send you home... The planes and the ships are coming for you, but it takes time," she explained.

One bearded man acting as spokesman for a large group said in broken English: "Maximum people are suffering. No food, no water, day and night terrible heat and terrible cold, we unable to sleep at night with thought what will happen to us."

"Be patient, be courageous, we will get you home," the Queen responded.

One old Indian woman who found herself right next to the Queen in the crush asked: "Who are you?"

"I've just come from Amman," Queen Noor replied as the minister next to her informed the Indian she was the Queen.

"God bless you," spat the woman, overwhelmed by the sudden realisation she had spokeo to the Queen.

At the end of her visit, the Queen appealed for international help to assist the more than 110,000 stranded poor Asian evacuees stranded at Ruweished and other camps in Jordan.

She said food, tents, blankets and medicine are badly needed. "But above all the international community must provide the ships and the planes."

"I can't tell how long their repatriation will take, days or weeks, but God forbid it should take months," she said.

House to send messages on Gulf issue to world leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday was briefed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on the latest developments in the Gulf and His Majesty King Hussein's relentless efforts to reach a peaceful settlement for the problem.

At the outset of the session Deputy Issa Reimouni presented a number of proposals covering local, regional and international issues. He suggested sending a cable to King Hussein, expressing appreciation of his efforts to defuse tension in the Gulf, and cables to the Soviet and American presidents on the eve of their summit in Helsinki, appealing to them to apply fairness and justice in dealing with the Gulf situation.

Reimouni also suggested sending messages to the United Nations Organisation, the U.N. relief organisations and the International Parliamentary Union, seeking immediate aid to Jordan which is struggling to provide assistance to tens of thousands of evacuees from the Gulf.

Reimouni called on the Arab and Islamic nations to resist the presence of foreign forces in Arab land, and voiced Jordan's appreciation of Iran's stand vis-à-vis the issue.

Parliament promptly approved the proposals and referred the issue to a special follow-up committee to take appropriate action.

One of the topics on Parliament's agenda, discussed at Saturday's session, was a report by the Financial Committee about foreign investments law. The discussions were inconclusive and the subject was deferred to another session.

An Iraqi parliamentary delegation currently visiting Jordan attended part of the session and its members were welcomed by House Speaker Suleiman Arar who said any aggression against Iraq would be considered an aggression against Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

"The Lower House of Parliament, which represents the Jordanian people, voices its strongest condemnation of the presence of foreign forces on Arab lands and calls for the immediate withdrawal of American forces," said Arar.

He said that the presence of the foreign forces is regarded as an act of provocation to the feelings of all Arabs and Muslims and is considered as a flagrant aggression on Arab soil, designed to open the way for Israel to achieve its expansionist plans at the expense of the Arab World.

India to airlift home 3,000 nationals daily

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A massive airlift of Indian evacuees got under way Saturday with Air India and chartered Aeroflot aircraft poised to fly home over 3,000 Indian nationals from Jordan every day, the Indian transport minister said.

Transport Minister K.P. Unnikrishnan, who was heckled by Indian evacuees during a visit he paid to a transit camp in Amman Friday, also indicated a better appreciation by the government of the suffering and plight of the thousands of Indians awaiting homeward flights from Amman after a hazardous trek across the Kuwait-Iraqi-Jordanian desert.

Air India officials said a total of 11 aircraft — Air India Boeing 747s and Airbus and an Aeroflot Ilyushin-76 — were scheduled to take off from Amman by midnight Saturday, and an extra flight could be added if procedures could be completed for another 265 people.

Some of the flights will go direct to Bombay while others will land in Dubai, with Indian Air Force planes completing the Dubai-Bombay leg of the trip. Unnikrishnan, who arrived here Friday, told the Jordan Times.

The minister, who was surrounded by at least one thousand Indian evacuees protesting what they saw as inefficiency in handling the evacuation during his visit to the grounds of an international exhibition, where evacuees are accommodated, explained that "overflight" problems had posed obstacles in arranging direct air force flights to Jordan for the airlift and therefore the "air bridge" had to be built through Dubai.

"The entire operation is going into full gear," said the minister. "The magnitude of the problem is such that it needs a massive effort, particularly in view of the suffering of the people in transit."

Unnikrishnan, who was scheduled to hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, conceded that New Delhi had not realised the magnitude of the problems facing Indian evacuees through Jordan since it was focusing its efforts on arranging direct air and seafair from Baghdad, Basra, Kuwait and Bandar Khomeini in Iran, after Tehran said it was opening its border with Iraq for evacuees from Kuwait.

The efforts fell through when Baghdad remained firm in its insistence that any evacuation of Indians direct from Kuwait or Iraq or across the border with Iran should be linked to India supplying food to Iraq, which is facing a strain in food supplies in the wake of an international embargo ordered by the U.N. Security Council.

"Obviously, it is a highly sensitive political question and we did our best to convince the international community to understand and appreciate India's position that while we are committed to the international sanctions against Iraq we should make an exception for food and medicine," the minister told the Jordan Times. "After all, we have 170,000 of our own nationals in Kuwait," he pointed out, revealing for the first time that the number of Indians in the emirate was over 200,000 while reports had mentioned 172,000.

Jordanian statistics indicate that 36,000 Indian nationals have crossed into the Kingdom's territory since Aug. 6; another 1,200 have left through Saudi Arabia, several hundreds have crossed over to Turkey from Iraq and an unknown number is believed to be now transiting through Iraq.

Unnikrishnan, accompanied by N.M. Josef and Churchill Alemao, was visiting Al Ruweished border post Saturday.

The minister told the Jordan Times that the government was planning to ensure that every flight coming into Jordan from India will be carrying relief supplies for the Indians stranded here. These include tents, blankets, essential life-saving drugs and foodstuffs, he said.

Seventy tonnes of Indian-donated foodstuffs were handed over to Jordanian authorities Friday, in the first consignment of humanitarian aid to Jordan to help the Kingdom cope with the massive flood of evacuees from Kuwait.

Unnikrishnan explained that India would continue to airlift food supplies to Jordan to help Indians stranded here and this assistance is not included in the \$600,000 aid to Jordan announced by the government in Delhi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarz displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosehail (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — A Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.
- Art exhibition by Salem Kanan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FOLKLORE

- Folklore show from Taiwan at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "The Searchers" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to North Korean President Kim Il-Sung congratulating him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished the Korean president and people further progress and prosperity.

Senate to convene Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of its speaker, Ahmad Al Lawzi, and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The House will be briefed by Badran on the latest developments in the Gulf, and His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the problem.

Cabinet approves amendment to law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved an amendment to a loan agreement signed between the Jordanian government and the German Construction Bank. According to the amendment, the Jordanian government will be receiving 70 million Deutschmarks instead of 95 million. The loan will be used in financing the second stage of the Jordan Valley irrigation project.

Iraqi delegation praises Jordan's stand

IRBID (Petra) — Head of the Iraqi popular delegation currently on a visit to Jordan Saturday lauded the national stands of Jordan and affirmed that the Iraqi people will always remember these stands. In a meeting with citizens from the Irbid Governorate he emphasised the strength of the Iraqi army and said it was able to confront all the challenges facing it. He said the United States, after realising this fact, resorted to economic sanctions against Iraq. Head of the Jordanian committee for supporting Iraq Salem Al Qudahi delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Iraqi delegation and said the siege imposed by the U.S. and its allies on Iraq would fail in front of Iraq's steadfastness.

Jordan, India to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Indian government official held talks here Saturday with the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Ibrahim Badran on ways to promote the sale of Indian goods on Jordanian markets and to promote and increase bilateral trade.

V.D.N. Rao, who is India's deputy minister of trade, said after the talks that his country hoped that the volume of trade between Jordan and India would be increased so that there would be an adjustment in the balance of trade which is now heavily in favour of Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Badran as saying that India is the major importer of Jordan's phosphate, potash and cement, and that the overall annual trade volume between the two countries exceeds \$200 million in value.

He said that Jordan imported only up to \$20 million worth of goods from India every year, and discussions were focusing on ways to help India sell more of its national products to Jordan.

In September last year Rao came to Jordan and opened a nine-day trade and industrial exhibition at the Amman International Trade Fair Centre at Marij Al Hamam, displaying products by 50 Indian manufacturers and trading houses.

At the exhibition India displayed samples of tools, equipment for power supply, fuel injection equipment, machinery and a host of consumer items such as textiles, garments, leather products and gold jewellery.

At the meeting with Badran, Saturday, Rao discussed the prospect of organising industrial exhibitions for India and Jordan in Amman and Delhi and the prospect of initiating joint firms, according to Badran.

Jordan Times

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Legal questions and Gulf build-up

AS Washington and London appear to be so zealous about the application of international law and order and are championing their cause in the Gulf crisis, they would be well-advised to check with their legal advisers about the conformity of their actions in that region with U.N. law books. When the French defence minister recently raised questions about the legality of any offensive action against Iraq, even in Kuwait, the U.S. and Britain were on top of the list that called for his head after accusing him of pulling the rug from under their feet. Now the same Arab countries are still awaiting the response of the Western world to the legal question posed by the French defence minister. And before they waste much time looking for some untenable legal construction of relevant international law, Western capitals should know beforehand that the legal issue implied in any military offensive against Iraq has already been painstakingly researched and that the rule of thumb in such situations is that only the United Nations Security Council can authorise any military intervention that is potentially offensive. That would explain the Soviets' repeated warnings to Washington that only the Security Council is empowered to authorise the resort to force in similar circumstances. This being the legal case, perhaps Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would take time during today's summit in Helsinki to remind President Bush of the rule of law.

In addition, Bush needs to be asked how he ever came to view his country as an aggrieved party in the eyes of international law. We do not know how and why Washington and London in particular think that they have enough legal standing to rectify the situation in the Gulf unless they believe and are able to convince any credible court of law that they own Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and all the oil that lies beneath them. Gorbachev must not fall in the trap of ever consenting to the deployment of Western troops and armadas in the Gulf region since such massive build-up has never been authorised by the U.N. Security Council in the first place. Gorbachev would have an ample opportunity to do just that as well as to remind Washington and London and all other parties dragged into the Gulf mess that their military involvement makes them potential aggressors. Gorbachev's clear and loud message to Bush should be that the Americans have to listen to the voice of reason before proceeding with adventures that could be deadly and catastrophic.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTRIES

THE world would have liked to see the Americans and their allies showing a little degree of concern over the plight of the tens of thousands of Asian expatriates stranded in Jordan and come to their aid, said the Al Rai daily Saturday. The Americans and their allies were fast to move towards the Middle East in order to stem Iraq's attempt to regain its rights, and to impose Western hegemony on the Arabs, but they showed little interest in helping Jordan cope with the task of feeding and repatriating the evacuees, the paper noted. Jordan, despite its own economic difficulties, was prompt in responding to human sufferings and to the needs of those expatriates who belong to countries that had aligned themselves with the United States and its allies while governments were passive in their response even to the needs of their own nationals, the paper noted. Jordan would have liked to see the armies of U.S. allies in our region charging their troops with the task of relieving their own nationals and helping them to get out of Jordan and Iraq, thus showing a degree of humanitarian concern, the paper said. Evacuees from Western nations have been accorded suitable concern by their governments, but thousands of other nationals remain stranded in Jordan, Kuwait and Iraq, disregarded by their own governments and not receiving the minimum required care and help, the paper continued. Had it not been for Jordan's prompt help thousands of evacuees would have been dead by now; and despite the Kingdom's current hardships nothing can stop its people from extending a helping hand to the destitute people stranded here, the paper said. The sufferings of helpless men, women and children will serve as a curse on the American imperialist power and its small allies in our region.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily questions the attitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) vis-a-vis the Western-imposed ban on food supplies to Iraqi children, and says that the sanctions were arbitrary and violating United Nations treaties on the protection of civilians. Salah Abdul Samad says that international conventions do not condone the starving of people nor denying them medical treatment; and even enemy soldiers and prisoners of war are entitled to medical treatment under the U.N. laws and principles. The ICRC should have spearheaded efforts to oppose sanctions on food and medical supplies to the civilian population of Iraq, and should have urged the Security Council to rescind all measures that would cause sufferings to the civilians, said the writer. Preventing women and children and old people in Iraq from receiving food and medicine, is but an act of barbarism and an outrageous act of international terrorism, he added. The ICRC's mission should not be confined to providing assistance to the victims of natural disasters, but should rather serve as a deterrent to inhuman actions such as those now being exercised on Iraq, he adds. Abdul Samad called on the Jordan National Red Crescent Society to promptly raise the question of sanctions on food and medicine with the ICRC and help take the right decision.

Sawi Al Shabab daily discussed the coming Helsinki summit between the United States and the Soviet Union, and said that the Gulf crisis is certain to be one of the main topics on the agenda. The paper said that regional conflicts in Cambodia and Afghanistan are bound to be discussed as well, but most attention will be focused on Moscow's response to American pressures with regard to the handling of the Gulf issue. We find in Moscow's call for an international conference to tackle all issues in the Middle East region as very positive, and it is hoped that such proposal would bring Washington's attention to the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as 660, said the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan's economic crisis aggravated by Gulf conflict

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

JORDAN's economic difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis were very much aggravated because Jordan was already in a difficult position before the crisis. The country was just recovering from a typical heavy external indebtedness crisis.

After sixteen months of adherence to a strict economic adjustment programme sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — April 89 to July 90 — Jordan managed to restore a reasonable state of stability. Deterioration was definitely halted. The new relative stability was not solid enough yet, but it passed the test of time and earned enough credibility. It was abundantly clear that the Jordanian economy was heading in the right direction.

When the adjustment programme started to yield results, and Jordan was in many cases able to beat the objectives set forth by the IMF experts, thanks to Jordanian people sacrifices, the Gulf crisis erupted and threatened the economic recovery with a major setback.

The Jordanian Government was obviously alarmed by the economic impact of the crisis and complained to the United Nations (U.N.), in accordance with Article 50 of the U.N. Charter. The direct losses to the Jordanian economy, the Ministry of Finance argued, could reach \$1.5 to 2.0 billion a year, or one third of the

national income as a whole, and that is only the direct impact, let alone the indirect impact resulting from the escalator.

The U.N. Security Council was facing two options: Either to exempt Jordan from adherence to the sanctions, because they hurt Jordan much more than Iraq, or coming up with the proper compensation. So far, neither options were taken. The pressure against Jordan to comply with the sanctions is nevertheless mounting, but the compensation package does not seem to be forthcoming.

Apparently, the argument of the Jordanian Government about the country's heavy losses

in case of the strict application of the U.N. sanctions was accepted, as no one was able to refute the detailed table of direct losses. Instead of appreciating the position of Jordan, some Western journalists started to question the political stability of the country if all these losses will actually take place.

In this regard, we have to point out that the heavy losses talked about will either be compensated properly, or they should not happen in the first place, because Jordan is not under legal obligation to abide by the harmful sanctions before the damages are fairly compensated.

On the other hand, economic hardships that may be experienced by the Jordanian population under the circumstances will not be blamed on the Government, as happened in April 1989. They will be blamed on the American-British-Israeli designs to starve an Arab people to submission.

Jordanians are not scared of the economic consequences because they think in political and national terms, and seem to be ready to pay the economic price that goes with their standing.

Jordan may be taking a short term risk by siding with Iraq. But in the longer term it is in the best interest of Jordan that the old Arab Order be abolished in favour of a new and a more just system. For the last

40 years, Jordan was taking on its shoulders a huge responsibility as a confrontation state and a buffer zone between the Israeli military machine and the Arab oil wealth. One of the four men of the Jordanian labour force is in the army, the highest ratio in the world at peace or war times. The small Jordanian economy cannot afford to sustain this army on its own. Arab financial aid is not a handout as we were told, it is an Arab responsibility that must be discharged. The new Arab Order which will emerge soon should recognise the right of all Arabs in the Arab oil wealth. Altering and reforming the current unfair Arab Order, is a cause that is worth the price.

Bush sets tone for summit

HELSINKI (R) — Following are excerpts of the statement by U.S. President George Bush on arrival in Helsinki Saturday for a summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The city of Helsinki has often been a meeting place for nations seeking to advance the cause of peace. And my thanks to the people of Finland first for hosting this meeting and for setting an example for all the world in your resolute commitment to liberty and independence."

"When President Gorbachev and I met in Washington we discussed the possibility of meetings such as the one we will hold here tomorrow."

"We agreed that the United States and the Soviet Union had reached a stage in our relations where meetings

should occur more frequently, less fanfare, working meetings held as circumstances might dictate."

"And our aim was that these meetings be unstructured and informal with an open agenda and a maximum opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual importance."

"Well, in keeping with that aim here in Helsinki, President Gorbachev and I will focus on a full range of issues."

"We seek continued movement towards the new Europe, Poland free. We seek to advance the pace of arms control — both strategic and conventional — and I want to hear about the progress of Soviet reform and explore other issues of interest to our two countries."

"And of course I expect we

will devote a large part of our time together to the situation in the Persian Gulf."

"I've said many times this past year that we have entered a new era in world affairs. This meeting comes at a critical time, at a moment when the actions we take can shape this new world for years to come."

"In the past many regional conflicts have played themselves out against the background of the larger conflict of the cold war. Renegade regimes and unpredictable rulers resorted to force, counting on superpower stalemate to frustrate the united response."

"International law and international organisations were often paralysed, powerless to prevent conflict or restore the peace. But the international response to Iraq's invasion

proves how much has changed."

"Here in Helsinki, President Gorbachev and I meet hopefully to strengthen our common approach to this unjustifiable act of aggression. Much is at stake and there is much the world stands to gain if we succeed."

"If the nations of the world acting together continue, as they have been, to isolate Iraq and deny Saddam the fruits of aggression, we will set in place the cornerstone of an international order more peaceful, stable and secure than any we have known."

"Together with the nations of the world I am confident that we can reverse the dangerous course of events brought on by the actions of Saddam Hussein and restore peace, stability and respect for the rule of law."

Gorbachev, troubled at home, heads for summit of hope

By Bryan Brunley
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev carries a bag full of troubles to Helsinki.

He's attending a summit full of hope, with the United States and the Soviet Union united in opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It is the first time they have been on the same side of a global crisis since World War II. But at home, Gorbachev's popularity is plummeting, the Soviet economy is defying predictions it couldn't get worse, and most of the 15 Soviet republics, including mother Russia, have declared sovereignty or independence from the central Communist government that Gorbachev heads.

After the summit, Gorbachev is expected to rush back to Moscow to present economic reforms that are likely to strip central authorities of much of their domestic power and largely dismember the state planning apparatus that Josef Stalin assembled at the cost of millions of lives. Despite the tumult on the home front, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has hailed the Sunday summit in Helsinki as a "landmark." Soviet media are describing it as a new phase in superpower cooperation.

History could well be made in Helsinki. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said in an interview Friday that the Soviet Union would be willing to send military forces to the Middle East under a military staff committee that included officers from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council: the United States, Soviet Union, France, Britain and China.

The aim, he said, was not only to help the United States enforce U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iraq, but also to impose Soviet controls on any unilateral military actions against Iraq by the United States.

The implication is that despite the collapse of the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe and the malaise at home, the Soviet Union retains its superpower status. But that view is not universally held. Andrei Kortunov, a young Soviet scholar at the U.S.-Canada Institute, publicly classified his nation as a regular rather than a superpower last June. His analysis has been embraced by a number of respected American Sovietologists.

"The Soviet Union is not still a superpower, at least as pertains to its capability of projecting global power in a low-violence conflict. Of course, it still has vast



nuclear arsenals," said Marshall Shulman, a Columbia University professor who is visiting Moscow. A senior Western diplomat was more cautious, simply saying: "It has been a multipower world for quite some time now."

The diplomat, who spoke on condition that he not be further identified, noted that even the United States generally seeks accord with its allies before exerting military muscle. Bush, at least, in requesting the meeting with Gorbachev, appears inclined not only to acknowledge the Soviet Union as a once and future superpower, but to recognise Gorbachev as the de facto leader of the reform movement in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev faces the threat of eclipse by Boris Yeltsin, who last May 29 was elected to the newly created post of president of the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic.

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies quickly declared "sovereignty," asserting that its laws take precedence over Soviet laws on Russian Territory, and that the Russian — rather than the central Soviet — government controlled the republic's vast natural resources.

The declaration stopped short of the independence proclaimed earlier by the three Baltic republics, but it paved the way for radical sovereignty decrees by other republics, including the Ukraine.

economic decision-making powers away from central authorities to the republics.

Yeltsin introduced his reforms to the Russian parliament last Monday. Whereas Gorbachev is due to propose his to the national legislature next week, Monday at the earliest.

Public pressure appears to have forced Gorbachev to jettison a moderate reform package advocated by his ally, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, in favour of a more radical version drafted by economist Stanislav Shatalin — who is also credited with writing the reforms proposed by Yeltsin. Gorbachev's spokesman, Vita-

ly Ignatenko, said the two programmes would be very similar. Widespread consumer shortages, five years into the Gorbachev administration, are fueling public anger against the Soviet leader and his allies.

Reformist Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, who quit the Communist Party in July, renewed calls on Friday for the resignation of Ryzhkov.

Gorbachev, who in the West is considered a reformer, is viewed increasingly in the Soviet Union as a moderate, or even conservative. Yeltsin has overtaken Gorbachev in popularity, according to some polls.

LETTERS Misquoted

To the Editor:

This is with reference to an article published in the Jordan Times "International airlift to take home Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis."

I would like to place on record the fact that I was misquoted by your correspondent. A quotation cited at the end of the article has been attributed to me. What I said was that until now, it seemed that the governments of Iran and Syria did not ask for help to cope with the problem of the evacuees. Neither did the Turkish government. But the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is in contact with them.

More important, we have no role whatsoever in Iraq, nor any kind of relation or presence there. IOM's mandate is to organise the repatriation of the evacuees to the countries that have requested us to do so. Never has our mandate been to monitor refugees.

I would appreciate if this error is corrected.

Regina Boucault
Spokesperson, IOM

Western media — biased coverage, concealed truth

By Khaled Mahadeen

THE STREETS of London last Saturday witnessed a major demonstration in which more than 30,000 British people took part to protest foreign intervention in the Gulf region. The protest was organised by two Labour Party members. Demonstrators carried posters to the American embassy with a slogan reading: "stop sending our sons to die in defence of American oil companies." But the demonstrators were prevented from reaching the embassy building which was cordoned off and guarded by British police.

People in Britain waited to watch the demonstration on television, but not a single television station dared to present the scene, nor did a reporter mention that it ever took place. It seems in the West democratic governments possess the right to decide what is suitable for media coverage and what is not, and what is to be taken out from reports. The so-called information freedom under such democracies is a big lie in which no one should even believe.

In Amman last Tuesday, a similar picture repeated itself, reflecting the facts about the Western democracies. Journalists, television crews, and radio and media correspondents thronged the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman to report on the arrival, there from Iraq, of 70 French men and women and children; and as they were making ready to meet the returnees, they were surprised to learn their mission was impossible. When they tried to find out why, they were told by French embassy officials in Amman that they can by no means go near the returning group nor can they take pictures.

The journalists then pleaded with the French embassy officials, trying to persuade them to change their mind, pledging that they would be very careful when talking to the men and women about their stay in Iraq and the trip and promising not to relay to their television, radio and newspapers anything that might endanger the lives of French men left behind in Iraq and Kuwait. But a French embassy official smiled and said that his government does not want to convey to the French people at home anything that might give any positive indication about the good treatment of the Iraqi government.

It is indeed, the same "democratic deceptive game" played in the media shifting from the streets of London to Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. This game has a single objective: To maintain a false propaganda campaign and win public support in the West for any action taken against Iraq.

All this is being practised at a time when the West continues to brag about the "honesty and integrity" of the Western nations in dealing with the Gulf crisis or any other Arab or Islamic problem for that matter.

At the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, I came across journalists com-

plaining that their newspapers, radio and television stations continue to deliberately distort their reports sent from Amman about the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East region. They said that their superiors and employers either scrap large parts of their reports or carry out montage work in such a manner that would completely distort the report and leave what is only convenient to help twist the facts and present Iraq in an ugly image to the public. Such an attitude, they said, have prompted many journalists to send home a trickle of reports or none at all.

Some journalists told me that their employers had indeed issued them warnings against ever protesting such practice, and, in some cases, non-complying journalists have been replaced. A British journalist confessed that he was feeling ashamed of such policy; and although his employers could easily distort facts and reports without sending media people out to the Middle East, these employers seem to be keen on having journalists in the field to serve as tools for distortion against their own will. "This," he said, "will not doubt harm our image before our readers and viewers back home, specially after discovering that we have been feeding them with false reports from far away..."

A French journalist told me that her government does not want any one to talk to those arriving from Iraq, to learn from them about the good treatment by the Iraqis. She said a smile on the face of women or children, should not appear on television since such smile tends to contradict the image which Western governments want to project about the Iraqi government.

She added laughing: "I was afraid they would ask the arrivals from Baghdad to take off their shoes, ruffle their hair and rip their clothes and also cover their faces with yellow colours before posing for photographers and television crews with tears rolling down from their eyes so that we can tell lies to the French people and say: Look what the Iraqis have done to the French citizens."

"What we have seen from a distance," the journalist added, "was that all the arrivals were in very good health, happy and looking as if they were just returning from a very enjoyable holiday." This clearly manifests the Western democracies' game which is disguising by all standards.

Finally, we can ask ourselves whether there is any further manifestation of malice and hatred against us harboured and displayed in all ingenuity by all countries hostile to our rights to life, to dignity, to self-sufficiency, to development and progress and finally to our unity?

Such as, Arab aspirations together constitute a horrible nightmare now weighing heavily on the chest of the enemies in the hostile camp led by Washington and embodying colonial forces whose history abounds with bitter defeats at the hand of nations.

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Jordan Times

Graf, Sabatini to clash at U.S. Open tennis final

NEW YORK (R) — Steffi Graf and her longtime rival Gabriela Sabatini took different paths but both reached their final destinations with victories in the semifinals of the U.S. Open Friday.

Graf, the two-time defending champion, crushed former French Open winner Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-1, 6-2, while Sabatini went the distance to beat American Mary Joe Fernandez 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 in a stadium court struggle at the National Tennis Centre.

The women's final, worth \$350,000 to the winner, will be held in between the two men's semifinals on the U.S. Open's "super Saturday" programme.

Boris Becker, the second-seeded defending champion, plays fourth-seeded American Andre Agassi in the first semifinal, with unseeded, four-time open champion John McEnroe playing 12th-seeded fellow-American Pete Sampras after the women's title match.

Graf was near perfect in her demolition of Sanchez, who had ruined the West German's bid for a second successive Grand Slam sweep by beating her in the 1989 French Open final.

"The way I was playing I couldn't have been much better," Graf said after her 54 minute triumph.

"I was close to the limit," Sabatini despatched her topspin baseline game in favour of spirited assaults on the net to subdue the stubborn 18-year-old Fernandez.

The Argentine, loser of all six Grand Slam matches she has played against Graf dating back to 1987, was confident about her chances.

"I'm ready to win," the 20-year-old Sabatini said. "We will see tomorrow."

Graf, who leads her personal series with Sabatini 18-3, has other ideas about the outcome of this year's final Grand Slam event.

An upset victim at both the French and Wimbledon championships this year after taking the Australian Open crown, Graf is determined to finish 1990 in style.

"It would be something major for me to win," said Graf, who celebrated her record 160th consecutive week on top of the rankings despite a season in which she had sinus surgery and withstood a tidal wave of upstaging allegations about the love life of her father and coach, Peter.

"It would mean a lot to me," Graf said about winning the title. "It never really mattered this much in a long, long time."

A victory in Saturday's final would make Graf the first woman to win three consecutive U.S. titles since Chris Evert, who finished a run of four in a row in 1978.

Standing in her way will be Sabatini.

Sabatini, more assured of her volley since working with new coach Carlos Kirmayr of Brazil, wore a path to the net to reverse the early momentum gained by Fernandez.

Fernandez, making a comeback from a season marred by injuries, rushed to a 4-1 lead in the first set before Sabatini turned up the pressure by forcing the attack.

The fifth-seeded Argentine took four successive games to lead 5-4 and then won the set by breaking Fernandez with a forehand volley in the 12th game.

Fernandez fought her way back as both players and trouble holding serve in the second set. The American, who ran around Sabatini's second serve to hit crushing cross-court forehands, broke in the 11th game at 15 and then served a love game to force a third set.

Sabatini scored the only service break of the third set in a tension-packed eighth game when she made good on her third break-point by touching off her second successive backhand drop volley.

The Argentine set up match point with a sprawling backhand volley and Fernandez ended the two-hour, 43-minute match by spraying a forehand wide.

"When I turned around and saw the ball was in — that was one of the biggest shots I ever made," Sabatini said about her Beckersque winner.

"I had fun volleying," said Sabatini, who made 92 approaches to the net, winning 56 points in the process.

Fernandez, who lost to Graf in the Australian Open final, said Sabatini could be tough Saturday.

"She's going to be really excited," said Fernandez, who has suffered this season from tendinitis in her right shoulder, a pulled hamstring, a back injury and a slight tear of the cartilage in her right knee.

"She's got a shot at it," Graf's victim was not so sure. "I think she's playing much better now than in Paris or at Wimbledon," Sanchez said about Graf.

"She played unbelievable," the sixth-seeded Sanchez said. "I think she's going to win the tournament."

Sabatini says she is fitter than ever and does not feel at a disadvantage because Graf needed just 54 minutes to destroy Sanchez in the earlier semifinal, while she had to battle for nearly three hours.

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Standing in her way will be Sabatini.

Sabatini, more assured of her volley since working with new coach Carlos Kirmayr of Brazil, wore a path to the net to reverse the early momentum gained by Fernandez.

Fernandez, making a comeback from a season marred by injuries, rushed to a 4-1 lead in the first set before Sabatini turned up the pressure by forcing the attack.

The fifth-seeded Argentine took four successive games to lead 5-4 and then won the set by breaking Fernandez with a forehand volley in the 12th game.

Fernandez fought her way back as both players and trouble holding serve in the second set. The American, who ran around Sabatini's second serve to hit crushing cross-court forehands, broke in the 11th game at 15 and then served a love game to force a third set.

Sabatini scored the only service break of the third set in a tension-packed eighth game when she made good on her third break-point by touching off her second successive backhand drop volley.

The Argentine set up match point with a sprawling backhand volley and Fernandez ended the two-hour, 43-minute match by spraying a forehand wide.

"When I turned around and saw the ball was in — that was one of the biggest shots I ever made," Sabatini said about her Beckersque winner.

"I had fun volleying," said Sabatini, who made 92 approaches to the net, winning 56 points in the process.

Fernandez, who lost to Graf in the Australian Open final, said Sabatini could be tough Saturday.

"She's going to be really excited," said Fernandez, who has suffered this season from tendinitis in her right shoulder, a pulled hamstring, a back injury and a slight tear of the cartilage in her right knee.

"She's got a shot at it," Graf's victim was not so sure. "I think she's playing much better now than in Paris or at Wimbledon," Sanchez said about Graf.

"She played unbelievable," the sixth-seeded Sanchez said. "I think she's going to win the tournament."

Sabatini says she is fitter than ever and does not feel at a disadvantage because Graf needed just 54 minutes to destroy Sanchez in the earlier semifinal, while she had to battle for nearly three hours.

Burrell and Ottey star in Athens Athletics Grand Prix

ATHENS (R) — Sprint king and queen Leroy Burrell and Merlene Ottey can look back on a unique double at the end of the first Athletics Grand Prix season to finish without a single world record.

Burrell beat fellow-American Carl Lewis to win the men's overall title in Friday's final while Jamaican Ottey crushed the rest of the field, including European triple gold medalist Katrin Krabbe of East Germany, to capture the women's crown.

It was the first time in the six years of Grand Prix meetings that two sprinters had taken the titles though Ottey did win the women's overall prize three years ago.

More surprising was the absence of a world record in a Grand Prix season expanded to 20 venues this year.

The idea of bringing the

world's best athletes to compete together on a regular basis was the principle behind the introduction of the Grand Prix in 1985 and records have tumbled with the same sort of regularity ever since.

This year the well was dry though the meetings did see three world records, two from Briton Steve Backley and one from Jan Zelezny of Czechoslovakia, in the men's javelin — an event not counting towards Grand Prix standings.

The whole athletics season has been remarkably short of records with only three events — the men's shot, javelin and 4x100 metres relay — reaching new horizons in 1990.

Arguments are still raging on whether random dope testing is having a salutary effect on performances or whether motivation is lacking in the build-up year

towards next season's World Championships and the 1992 Olympics.

Nevertheless, athletes are still talking about world records with Burrell and Ottey among those most determined and most capable of setting them.

Burrell clocked 9.96 seconds this season, only 0.04 of a second off Lewis's time, one which he believes is within his grasp.

When Canadian Ben Johnson returns from disgrace, the stage should be well set for a realistic attack on the 9.92 target.

Ottey produced the best women's performance of the year in any event with her 21.66 over 200 metres at the Zurich Grand Prix in August.

She said in Athens she thought she could go on to beat American Florence Griffith Joyner's 21.34 world record.

Toronto seeks Olympic Games to confirm world-class status

TORONTO (R) — Toronto the good, the once proud and proper Canadian town on the shores of Lake Ontario, is anxious to host the 1996 summer Olympics to prove to the world it is now a booming and cosmopolitan world-class city.

In less than two decades it has transformed from a sleepy Anglophone backwater — where the bars closed early and everything shut on Sunday — to a rich multi-ethnic city where people work hard and play late into the night.

Canada's largest city, with a population of more than 3.5 million, is even more anxious to win the Olympics since it narrowly lost to Hannover, West Germany, in its bid to host the Expo 2000 World Fair.

Still known affectionately as "Toronto the good" city is beginning to face problems of choked roads and polluted air but its wealth, its safe and efficient public transport and its lack of crime make it a strong contender to host the games.

It aims to emulate the money-making, sunny 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, not the debt-drenched 1976 Montreal games.

Many Canadians still remember the Montreal games as starting with a budget of 300 million dollars (\$261 million) and finishing with a debt of 1.3 billion dollars (\$1.13 billion) and an unfinished stadium.

Toronto, one of six cities vying for the games, will find out its fate, when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meets in Tokyo on Sept. 18 to select the venue for the 1996 games.

Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester and Melbourne are also bidding to stage the summer Olympics.

Private sector backers and public servants are stressing Toronto's image as a city where strangers can strike up a con-

versation on the subway, where political change is quiet and orderly, and which has a time zone that makes U.S. network television revenues potentially more lucrative.

"Canada has a track record of running good international games. We may not win many medals in our own games but they are well-run. The IOC can count on that," said Bruce Kidd, a former Olympic runner and member of the Toronto Bidding Committee.

Most Toronto residents have so far shown little excitement for the games and there have been critics who say Toronto would be throwing good money after bad in hosting the Olympics.

Latest estimates by the city put the cost of the games at 2.5 billion dollars (\$2.1 billion), although the official organising committee says the cost will be just over one billion (\$870 million).

"Our concern is that these mega-projects are the wrong priority for the city. We question whether money should be diverted from other needed projects like improving the environment," said Michael Shapcott, spokesman for an anti-Olympics coalition called Bread Not Circuses.

Much of the Olympic development would be on the lakeshore on disused railway land very near the city centre.

The city would need to build a 90 million dollar (\$78 million) Olympic pool, a 10 million dollar (\$8.7 million) velodrome for cycling and would have to replace the 42-year-old exhibition stadium with an 80,000-seat Olympic stadium.

The city already has the Skydome — the world's first stadium with a fully retractable roof — which is home to Toronto's professional baseball and football teams, but it would be too small

for the Olympic track and field events.

The games would need an Olympic village, but backers of the plan say low cost housing has to be built anyway and having the contestants as the first tenants will speed the project and add about 70 million dollars (\$61 million) in revenue from rent.

The city of Toronto has been firmly behind the Olympics. In August, 1986 its council voted 20 to 11 in favour of mounting the bid — just four months after Montreal residents were told they still owed \$53 million dollars (\$569 million) for the 1976 games.

Councillors said the city could gain more than 1.1 billion dollars (\$870 million), based on the success of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

"Toronto should make at least as much money and it has an excellent chance of making more," said Councillor Benjamin Grys.

The bid was launched initially by three Toronto entrepreneurs, including Paul Henderson, who runs a family plumbing firm and is a former Olympic yachtsman. About 29 corporations initially contributed 15,000 dollars (\$13,000) each to back the bid.

Their Toronto Ontario Olympic Council, a non-profit corporation that later became Toronto's official voice, has lobbied provincial sports bodies, political groups, the media, and anyone else they could bring the message to.

In October, 1987 the council formed a "brigade" with corporate sponsors such as Air Canada, George Weston Ltd., the Royal Bank of Canada and York University to help raise another five million dollars (\$4.3 million).

The Ontario government also gave more than three million dollars (\$2.6 million) to bring the organising committee's total funding to about 15 million dollars (\$13 million).

Bayern Munich beats Kaiserslautern 4-0 to head W. German soccer league

BOON (R) — Champions Bayern Munich put Kaiserslautern's early title challenge firmly into perspective when they beat them 4-0 to take over at the top of the West German Soccer League.

Goals from Roland Wohlfarth, Hans Dorfner, Thomas Strunz and an own goal from Demir Hotic helped the Bavarians end Kaiserslautern's unbeaten run of four games but had given them a one-point lead at the top.

Bayern's convincing win was one of two surprise results in three games played before Saturday's main Bundesliga fixtures as second-placed VfB Stuttgart went down 2-0 at Bayer Uerdingen.

After a hesitant start to the season the Munich victory will give confidence to Jupp Heynckes's side before they begin their European Cup campaign later this month.

Before Friday's victory, Bayern had been struggling to find their normal commanding form and last week needed a penalty in the dying seconds to avoid dropping an embarrassing point at struggling Karlsruhe.

Despite wet, cold conditions, Bayern took the game to Kaiserslautern from the start and striker Wohlfarth earned them a 1-0 lead at the interval when he fired home from 15 metres.

Three minutes into the second

half Strunz, who was called into West Germany's national squad for their recent friendly with Portugal, capped a superb performance by putting Dorfner free to score.

Five minutes later Strunz himself scored from the edge of the area and in the 62nd minute, Hotic put through his own goal.

"The game showed that our form is getting better. There was more life in the dog tonight," Heynckes said. "We can and will get even better."

A 54th-minute free kick from Danish international Jan Bartram and a goal from defender Gerhard Kleppinger in the 36th minute was enough to give Uerdingen their first victory of the season over VfB.

The result put the Stuttgart side, who were missing World Cup midfielder star Guido Buchwald, down to fourth behind Kaiserslautern, who lie second, and third-placed Eintracht Frankfurt.

Senna takes pole position for Italian Grand Prix

MONZA, Italy (R) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna established another qualifying lap record for the high-speed Monza circuit in the final minute of Saturday's practice session as he claimed pole position for the Italian Grand Prix.

Senna, in a McLaren, broke the record he set Friday by 0.4 of a second and made sure of pole position when he clocked one minute 22.533 seconds on the 5.8-kilometre track with only seconds remaining.

His fast lap followed similarly

quick efforts from its McLaren team-mate, Austrian Gerhard Berger, who clocked 1:22.936, and his old rival Frenchman Alain Prost who recorded 1:22.935 in his Ferrari in the last five minutes.

It was Senna's third successive pole position at Monza and extended his record career total to 49 poles.

Briton Nigel Mansell in the second Ferrari, who was fourth fastest behind Prost and Berger, was unable to improve on his best time set Friday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSH

HOW TO GUESS RIGHT

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
A 10 9 4 3
K 2
Q 3
K J 10 8 6
WEST
K 10 9 3
Q J 10 8
A 7 4
EAST
K 8 7
Q 8 5 4
K 9 7
Q 5 2
SOUTH
Q J 6 5
A 7 6
A 6 5 2
9 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 1
2 3 4 4 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of trumps. With support for all the unbid suits, North would have doubled. No matter which minor North held, South's two aces, excellent spade support and shortage in clubs made the hand fully worth a jump to game.

West's opening lead of the queen of diamonds was revealing, since it marked the king of diamonds with East and also made it unlikely that West held the king and queen of hearts — with both, he would surely have preferred to lead the suit his side had bid in an attempt to set up a quick defensive trick, or to collect whatever heart tricks were due the defenders.

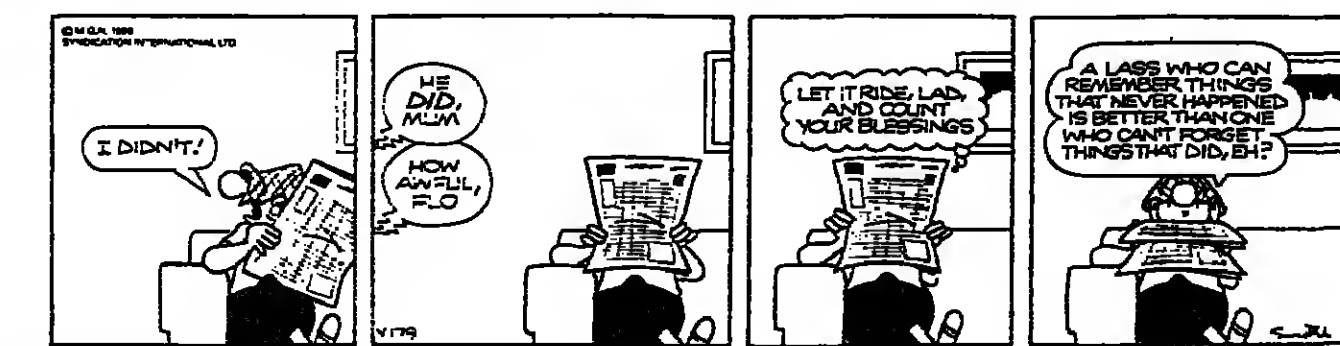
To avoid a nasty club shift at trick two, declarer immediately won the ace of diamonds, then ran the queen of spades, losing to the king. South was now almost ready to claim the hand.

East forced dummy to ruff a diamond. Declarer came to hand with the ace of hearts and led a low club. West played low smoothly, but declarer knew the situation. Since West held at most seven points in the other three suits, he had to have the ace of clubs to open the bidding. So, declarer flew up with the king of clubs and returned the suit, won by West's ace. Shortly after, South was able to claim the contract when the queen of clubs appeared.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Beneath all the surface agitation and problems you face today there is real chance to make steady advancement toward the aims and ambitions you hold most important and dear.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to get promises scrupulously carried out in the morning and then you will be able to join fascinating friends in a mutual interest.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't look to a stubborn partner to do some duty that is expected of you early but then later you can get one in power to aid you with a financial issue.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Stick to a work promise in the morning even though it is difficult to do so but later you are able to get off to interesting places to add to your knowledge.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Conflict between pleasures and duty should result the latter in the morning but then you can go along with pleasant time you have planned.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't get into any friction with one in your home in the morning while later you can be off to some outside companion for a constructive time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have a visit to make or

message to communicate, do it before noon as later you find it necessary to attend to some neglected errands.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can make some arrangements in the morning to carry you through a pleasant situation the coming days, then do something special to please your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep quiet about some home or family conditions you do not like and later find it clears itself up and conditions become very pleasant there.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't try to do what will cause more expense where property is involved in the morning but later you see ways to make a fine budget.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your communications with usual contacts should only be about the practical and mundane plans you have and then don't agree to them until tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you upset an influential person in the morning expect some upsetting results but later you can join with good friends at some unusual amusement.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider your most secret desires and don't take into your confidence newcomers but let your own attachment be of most help in attaining them.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"In appreciation of 20 years of fine service, we're changing your paper clips from steel to brass."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOLIO

LICCO

PROAND

YORPTS

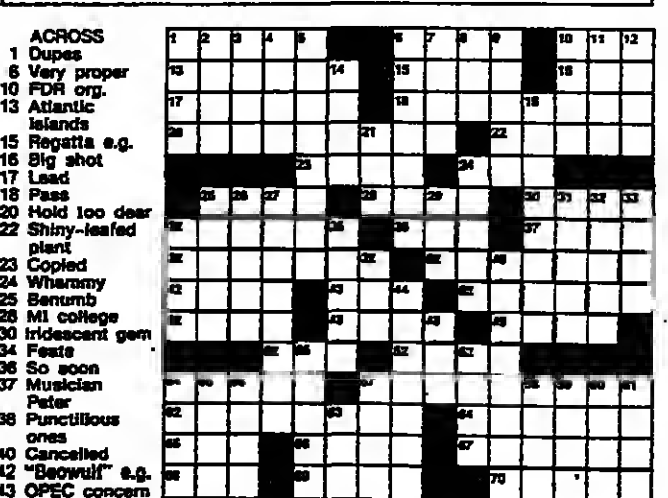
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumble: DUSKY ERASE MODEST COUPLE

Answer: Something added to water to frighten little children—SUDS

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

Daily	11	Heralike	21	Tip	31	Easy task	41	Easy task
Dollar prize	12	Primal	22	Science of classification	32	Pasture	42	Pasture
Call	13	Tip	23	Loathings	33	Hot compress	43	Hot compress
Neuron	14	Tip	24	Loathings	34	City on the Po	44	City on the Po
Vincent —	15	Tip	25	Loathings	35	Ship	45	Ship
Infertor	16	Tip	26	Loathings	36	Ship	46	Ship
Too young	17	Tip	27	Loathings	37	Ship	47	Ship
Luxu food	18	Tip	28	Loathings	38	Ship	48	Ship
Safety grain	19	Tip	29	Loathings	39	Ship	49	Ship
City of coast	20	Tip	30	Loathings	40	Ship	50	Ship
Remarks	21	Tip	31	Loathings	41	Ship	51	Ship
Ships	22	Tip	32	Loathings	42	Ship	52	Ship
DOWN	23	Tip	33	Loathings	43	Ship	53	Ship
Masters e.g.	24	Tip	34	Loathings	44	Ship	54	Ship
Black Sea arm	25	Tip	35	Loathings	45	Ship	55	Ship
Diadode	26	Tip	36	Loathings	46	Ship	56	Ship
"— Rabbit"	27	Tip	37	Loathings	47	Ship	57	Ship
Footmen	28	Tip	38	Loathings	48	Ship	58	Ship
In a haughty manner	29	Tip	39	Loathings	49	Ship	59	Ship
Storm	30	Tip	40	Loathings	50	Ship	60	Ship
From "Fire and —"	31	Tip	41	Loathings	51	Ship	61	Ship
Confate	32	Tip	42	Loathings	52	Ship	62	Ship

La crise a aussi ses côtés positifs

Bouillonnement intellectuel en Jordanie

On connaît bien maintenant les graves problèmes que la crise du Golfe pose à la Jordanie. Ils masquent cependant un phénomène important et frappant, beaucoup plus positif: depuis le 2 août, les citoyens du royaume s'informent comme jamais

Déjà 8h du matin. Mohammed sait bien qu'il est en retard pour son travail. Depuis dix ans pourtant, il était d'une ponctualité exceptionnelle. Mais ces deux dernières semaines, tout a changé. Ce matin, il a écouté les informations à la radio pendant plus de vingt minutes, puis il a lu le journal et a discuté longuement avec sa femme des attitudes des différents pays à propos de l'Irak et de la crise du Golfe. Ces dix minutes de retard ne posent pas de problèmes à Mohammed, car son chef sait très bien qu'il n'a pas à rester une heure de plus lorsque son travail l'exige. Au contraire, son patron le salue très amicalement et commence à discuter avec lui et avec ses collègues. En principe, chacun est à son poste de 8h du matin jusqu'à 14h, sauf, exceptionnellement, pour quelques réunions sur des problèmes de travail. Aujourd'hui, tous les problèmes privés et professionnels sont oubliés. Les salaires de l'entreprise ne sont

suparavant et un riche débat d'idées ne cesse de s'alimenter au sein de toutes les couches de la société et de toutes les familles, sans exception... Journée d'un Jordanien moyen depuis la crise du Golfe.

social inquiétant; ils sont au contraire devenus un élément indispensable pour beaucoup de gens impatientes de savoir tout ce qui peut leur arriver à tout moment. La famille de Mohammed n'est plus n'est plus la même. Chacun est très occupé, le soir, par ses nouvelles responsabilités personnelles. Au point que Mohammed se sent pris dans un immense tourbillon et a souvent l'impression que le temps lui manque. Il doit d'abord amener sa fille au cours de défense civile et son fils à l'entraînement de l'armée populaire. De plus, il n'a pas le temps, malgré tout, d'aider sa femme, qui est en train de préparer d'énormes repas qu'elle fait spécialement pour les nombreux réfugiés logés temporairement dans une mosquée voisine. Il doit aussi aller assister à une conférence de certains députés du parlement sur la crise du Golfe... Toute la famille doit encore être à la maison à 19h pour écouter le communiqué de Saddam. Personne ne se plaint de ce

rythme trépidant. Chacun est satisfait de ses responsabilités et de la vie active qu'il mène. Le fait qu'ils lisent chaque jour les journaux et les livres qu'ils peuvent trouver permet à chacun de prendre part à la discussion qui se déroule inégalement parmi eux pendant et après les informations de 20h. Ce n'est plus le système patriarcal: les enfants participent à tous les événements et proposent même plusieurs activités pour les jours à venir et pour aider les évacués.

On sonne à la porte. C'est la famille Abou-Ali qui vient passer le reste de la soirée avec eux. Ils ne sont pas seuls: d'autres membres de la famille de Mohammed et de sa femme sont venus aussi. C'est vraiment la crise pour tous, pense Mohammed en souriant sereinement aux arrivants. La crise aura en au moins l'avantage de renforcer les liens au sein des familles jordaniennes.

Saeeda Kilani

CLIN

D'OEIL

Au delà d'Helsinki

Et si George Bush et Mikhail Gorbatchev pouvaient jouer les théoriciens à Helsinki? Je doute fort qu'une telle hypothèse ne fasse rire nombre d'historiens. Mais comme notre vie est faite de contradictions et de mythes, alors tout devient possible. Ainsi à Helsinki, le «théoricien» américain dira à son homologue soviétique: «par interprètes interposés» combien il était dangereux de rompre brutalement l'équilibre actuel, de remettre en cause les valeurs universelles et de menacer l'ordre international dont Washington se fait l'avocat...

Mais parleront-ils de la nature de l'équilibre rompu par l'Irak et de la portée des valeurs contestées? Tenteront-ils de déceler les germes d'une crise qui ne cesse d'être mise en scène, scénarii à l'appui? Non, à Helsinki il ne sera pas question de crise, mais bien de stratégie. On songera surtout au nouveau consensus et aux nouvelles alliances. Les Irakiens l'ont compris. C'est pourquoi Tarek Aziz négociera aujourd'hui à Téhéran l'une des cartes maîtresses dont dispose encore Bagdad.

Ayman Masannat

EN BREF

Tournée. A l'issue d'une tournée de dix jours qui l'a conduit successivement en Libye, en Tunisie, en Algérie, en Mauritanie, au Maroc, puis en Espagne, en Grande-Bretagne, en RFA, en France et en Italie, le roi Hussein s'est rendu cette semaine en Irak où il a rencontré le président Saddam Hussein. En France, le roi Hussein a obtenu une aide d'urgence de quatre millions de F (750.000 dollars) destinée à contribuer au transit des réfugiés venant du Koweït et d'Irak.

Kouchner. Bernard Kouchner, secrétaire d'Etat français à l'action humanitaire, a visité cette semaine les camps installés en Jordanie pour les évacués du Koweït et d'Irak. Il est arrivé mercredi à Amman à bord d'un avion spécial envoyé par le gouvernement français pour ramener à Paris ses ressortissants arrivés dans la capitale jordanienne. Mme Georgina Duffoix, présidente de la Croix-Rouge française, se trouvait également à bord de l'avion d'Air-France avec lequel elle est repartie en compagnie des évacués sur la capitale française. M. Kouchner a déclaré que le gouvernement français ne séparait pas la politique de la main tendue envers les évacués et la Jordanie d'une politique de fermeté face à l'Irak, visant à obtenir le retrait du Koweït et la libération des «otages».

Rapatriement. L'Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM), basée à Genève, a mis en place lundi à Amman un pont aérien en collaboration avec plusieurs instances internationales pour rapatrier les ressortissants des pays les plus démunis. Lundi soir, un premier groupe de quelque 250 Sri-Lankaises a embarqué à bord d'un Airbus des Jordan Airlines affrété par l'OIM, à destination de Colombo. D'autres vols ont été, ou vont être, organisés avec différentes compagnies aériennes, dont Air-France, à destination du Sri-Lanka et du Bangladesh.

Incursion. Deux jeunes excursionnistes israéliens disparus depuis la fin août ont passé plusieurs jours en Jordanie avant d'être ramenés à la frontière israélienne par la police jordanienne. Les deux jeunes gens ont été vus par une patrouille israélienne, mitraillant de leurs appareils photo les vestiges de la cité nabatéenne. Ils se sont ensuite rendus en auto-stop à Aqaba, où les autorités jordanienes ont multiplié les contrôles depuis le début de la crise du Golfe. Incapables de présenter des papiers d'identité, ils ont été arrêtés, interrogés pendant plusieurs jours et expédiés sous bonne garde à Amman. Après l'intervention de plusieurs pays et organisations à la demande d'Israël, les deux garçons ont franchi jeudi matin le pont Allenby en direction d'Israël. Fait sans précédent, le ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères a adressé publiquement ses remerciements au roi Hussein pour la conclusion heureuse de cette affaire.

Ligue. Le secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, M. Cheddi Klibi, a démissionné lundi de son poste. Tunisien, M. Klibi était secrétaire général depuis 1979, date du transfert du siège de la Ligue du Caire à Tunis après la signature des accords égypto-israéliens de Camp David. M. Klibi semble avoir préféré ne pas prendre la responsabilité de la division de la Ligue arabe, en démissionnant avant la session extraordinaire de demain au Caire où doit être annoncé le transfert du siège de la Ligue dans la capitale égyptienne.

Sénégalais. Le président sénégalais Abdou Diouf a annoncé que son pays allait envoyer un contingent militaire en Arabie Saoudite, après accord avec le gouvernement saoudien. Le Sénégal sera ainsi le premier pays d'Afrique noire à envoyer des troupes en Arabie Saoudite.

Saoudiennes. Les jennes Saoudiennes ont été autorisées pour la première fois dans l'histoire du royaume saoudien à servir dans l'armée pour défendre leur pays. Le roi Fahd a donné des directives pour «engager les jeunes saoudiennes qui se portent volontaires pour servir dans les secteurs sanitaires, humanitaires et médicaux de l'armée et participer à la défense de la patrie».

USA-Egypte. George Bush a proposé au Congrès américain la remise de la dette militaire égyptienne à l'égard des Etats-Unis. Si le Congrès accepte cette proposition, l'Egypte sera dispensée de rembourser quelque 600 millions de dollars par an aux Etats-Unis, capital et intérêts compris. A cet avantage devrait normalement s'ajouter l'aide militaire et économique annuelle que les Etats-Unis accordent à l'Egypte depuis les accords de Camp David et qui s'élevait actuellement à 2,2 milliards de dollars. Le ministre israélien des Finances, Ytzhak Moda'i, a annoncé son intention de demander au gouvernement américain l'annulation de dettes contractées par Israël envers les Etats-Unis, parallèlement à cette annulation de celles de l'Egypte.

Message. Le ministre irakien de l'Information a proposé jeudi que le président Bush -qui s'était plaint de ne pas pouvoir présenter ses vœux aux Irakiens comme peut le faire Saddam Hussein- à la télévision américaine s'adresse au peuple irakien par l'intermédiaire de la télévision irakienne. George Bush a accepté cette proposition et va enregistrer, au cours des prochains jours, un message télévisé pour le peuple irakien afin d'exposer ses objectifs dans la crise du Golfe. Un message qui, selon l'ambassadeur d'Irak à Washington, sera diffusé intégralement et sans montage sur les écrans irakiens.

Allende. Plusieurs dizaines de milliers de personnes, dont le président chilien Patricio Aylwin et le premier ministre français Michel Rocard, ont assisté mardi à Santiago aux funérailles nationales de l'ancien président Salvador Allende, mort en 1973 lors du coup d'Etat militaire. Exhumé mardi matin d'un cimetière de Vina del Mar (110 km à l'ouest de Santiago), où elle avait été enterrée secrètement par les militaires après le coup d'Etat, la dépouille de Salvador Allende a été transférée dans la capitale et inhumée officiellement au cimetière central de Santiago.

PMA. Les dirigeants du Tiers-Monde réunis à Paris pour la conférence sur les Pays les Moins Avancés (PMA) ont réclaté mardi une participation à la croissance mondiale à travers une aide accrue des riches appuyant les efforts des pays pour sortir du sous-développement. En 1989 l'aide publique au développement pour les PMA n'atteignait qu'une moyenne de 0,09% du PNB des pays développés, les Etats-Unis, lanterne rouge, n'y consacrant que 0,04%. La France a annoncé à l'occasion de cette conférence qu'elle augmentera son effort en faveur des 41 PMA par un relèvement de son aide publique au développement vers l'objectif de 0,7% de son PIB, contre 0,54% aujourd'hui.

Energie. Le ministre français de l'Industrie, Roger Fauroux, a présenté mercredi un catalogue de mesures étudiées par le gouvernement afin d'économiser environ 30 millions de tonnes équivalent pétrole en dix ans. Les mesures étudiées, qui devraient entrer en vigueur dès l'année prochaine dans la perspective d'un nouveau choc pétrolier, vont des incitations fiscales pour la régulation du chauffage des logements et pour l'achat de voitures électriques, à des amortissements exceptionnels pour les entreprises investissant dans des dispositifs économisant l'énergie.

Inhumation. Les 56 victimes non-identifiées de l'attentat contre le DC10 de la compagnie française UTA, commis le 19 septembre 1989 au-dessus du Niger, ont été inhumées mardi au cimetière parisien du Père-Lachaise, en présence de 300 personnes. Dans un dernier hommage, les noms des 170 passagers morts dans l'explosion de l'avion au-dessus du désert de Ténéré au Niger, ont été prononcés devant la foule recueillie. Les représentants de quatre cultes -catholique, protestant, orthodoxe et musulman- ont, tour à tour, dit une prière, tandis que Mme Edwige Avic, ministre déléguée auprès du ministre des Affaires étrangères, exprimait, au nom du gouvernement, sa «sympathie» et sa «tristesse».

OM. L'Allemand Franz Beckenbauer a officiellement été engagé par le club de football français de première division, l'Olympique de Marseille (OM), pour une durée de deux ans. L'ex-entraîneur de l'équipe de RFA, vainqueur du Mondial en Italie, occupera les fonctions de directeur technique général.

Beaujolais. Les vendanges en Beaujolais, pleines de promesses et exceptionnellement précoces, ont débuté lundi matin, avec une semaine d'avance par rapport à l'an dernier, et vont s'étaler sur un mois. Les vagues de vendangeurs ont commencé à prendre possession du territoire rasant consciencieusement et «à l'ancienne», pour ne pas abîmer les grappes qui doivent être impérativement ramassées entières.

LA SEMAINE de Suleiman Sweiss

Amman: l'appel au monde

Depuis un mois, un souci majeur est venu s'ajouter aux autres soucis que vivent les Jordaniens ces jours-ci. Il s'agit des réfugiés qui affluent dans le pays venant du Koweït et d'Irak et qui veulent regagner leur pays. Ils sont nombreux: dix mille par jour traversent le poste frontalier Al Ruweished, près des frontières irakiennes. L'Ambassade jordanienne à Bagdad est débordée de travail. Dès le début de la crise et jusqu'à mercredi dernier, après d'un demi-million de réfugiés sont passés, ne serait-ce que pour quelques jours, par notre pays. Cent mille d'entre eux sont toujours sur le territoire jordanien. Fuyant par peur de la guerre (imminente?), ces réfugiés, égyptiens, yéménites, bengalis, thaïlandais, philippins, pakistanais et d'autres nationalités débarquent avec peu de moyens. C'est un drame humain de grande dimension.

Malgré la crise économique qui ravage la Jordanie depuis quelques années, malgré l'embargo partiel imposé sur son port unique d'Aqaba, les Jordaniens, fidèles à leurs traditions arabes, ont bien reçu ces réfugiés démunis et leur ont accordé l'aide humanitaire nécessaire. Tous les organismes officiels et toutes les organisations jordanienes de bien-faisance se sont mobilisés pour organiser les séjours des réfugiés, leur offrir de la nourriture et leur rendre des services médicaux, sanitaires, sociaux, etc...

Des milliers de Jordaniens apportent chaque jour leurs dons de pain, de légumes, de boîtes de conserve, de fruits, dans les «camps» de réfugiés.

On croyait au début que ces vagues de réfugiés allaient s'arrêter au bout de quelques jours. Mais l'afflux d'hommes et de femmes et d'enfants s'est accéléré à un rythme alarmant. A la mi-août, les autorités jordanienes ont dû fermer les frontières pendant quelques jours, car la pression sur les fonctionnaires et les services jordanienes était devenue insupportable malgré les gros efforts déployés par nos concitoyens. C'est alors qu'on a fait appel aux organisations humanitaires internationales (CICR, MSF, MDM et l'UNRWA tout récemment) qui ont apporté leur secours et leur contribution.

Il faut rendre hommage à ces «soldats inconnus» de l'aide humanitaire, qu'ils soient jordanienes ou non-jordanienes, car les sacrifices et les efforts parfois surhumains qu'ils ont consentis sont vraiment essentiels. Certains travaillent 48 heures sans interruption sous des chaleurs pénibles comme celles d'Al-Ruweished et d'Aqaba, où 200.000 Egyptiens et autres sont passés durant le mois d'août dernier.

Malheureusement, cette tâche humanitaire est devenue, depuis un certain temps, au-dessus des moyens de la Jordanie. D'abord, le nombre de réfugiés ne cesse de s'accroître et l'on prévoit le passage de deux millions de réfugiés dans les semaines à venir; la deuxième raison est que la collaboration des pays d'origine de ces réfugiés et des pays limitrophes a été faible jusqu'à maintenant. Enfin, l'aide apportée par la communauté internationale est encore limitée.

Au moment où des centaines d'avions travaillent jour et nuit pour transporter soldats et matériel de guerre, on n'arrive pas à trouver quelques dizaines d'avions pour transporter des centaines de milliers de réfugiés dans leurs pays! Quelle morale internationale!

La semaine dernière, les responsables jordanienes ont lancé un appel pressant à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle apporte son concours à cet effort humain que la Jordanie ne peut pas accomplir toute seule avec ses moyens modestes comparés au nombre des réfugiés.

Toute personne qui vit en Jordanie peut constater facilement l'ampleur de ces difficultés. La semaine dernière, le gouvernement a commencé à rationner le riz, le sucre et le lait qui sont vendus à la population à des prix subventionnés. Le pays a déjà beaucoup perdu sur le plan économique à cause de l'embargo imposé sur les bateaux du Golfe. La Jordanie est menacée aujourd'hui plus que jamais par une agression de la part d'Irak et elle doit donc prendre ses précautions.

Les Jordaniens ne se dérobent en aucun cas à leurs obligations humanitaires, mais ils ne peuvent pas faire face à cette situation sans un soutien actif de la part de la communauté internationale. Il est très urgent d'accomplir ce devoir humain et d'envoyer produits alimentaires, médicaments et fonds à la Jordanie. C'est aussi important que de s'occuper de la rencontre d'Helsinki d'aujourd'hui!

Conférence au CERMOC

Le faux problème de l'invasion du Koweït

Mardi dernier s'est tenue au CERMOC (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain) une intéressante table ronde sur la crise du Golfe. Un juriste, un économiste et un sociologue y participaient: le député au parlement jordanien, Husni Shihab, l'expert financier, Ghassan Musallam, et l'éditorialiste du «Jourdain», Suleiman Sweiss. Chacun dans son domaine, les trois hommes ont démontré, en analysant les causes et les conséquences de la crise, que l'intervention des Etats-Unis en Arabie Saoudite était d'une gravité sans commune mesure avec l'invasion du Koweït par les troupes de Saddam Hussein.

Juriste, Husni Shihab a insisté sur le lien historique qui existe entre l'Irak et le Koweït. Région commune de l'empire ottoman jusqu'à ce que les puissances coloniales la découpe après la première guerre mondiale, les deux «pays» forment une seule et même entité historique. S'appuyant sur ce fait, M. Shihab a insisté sur l'idée que le droit international, auquel l'Organisation des Nations Unies doit se conformer car il est plus général que le sien, plaide en faveur de l'Irak.

Soulignant d'autre part que l'embargo international, devenu blocus, a pour conséquence d'affamer et de mettre en danger le peuple irakien faute d'alimentation et de médicaments, le député estime que ces mesures sont contraires à la charte même des Nations Unies. Pour lui, il ne faut pas de doute que l'appel à la démocratie par les Occidentaux et par les Etats-Unis en particulier (champions de la transgression du droit international par leurs interventions en Amérique

centrale et leur soutien à Israël en dépit de ses exactions) est une hypocrisie qui cache des intérêts beaucoup moins avouables.

C'est précisément sur ces intérêts qu'a rebondi l'économiste Ghassan Musallam. Pour lui, la guerre économique des pays industrialisés contre les pays en voie de développement a été déclarée bien avant l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak et l'intervention américaine qui n'en sont que la trace objective. Il est clair selon lui que la perspective d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial a échoué. Du côté des pays industrialisés, les Etats-Unis sont littéralement envahis par leurs concurrents japonais et européens dont les investissements aux USA sont supérieurs à l'ensemble des investissements américains dans le monde entier. Du côté des pays en voie de développement, le maintien de la valeur réelle de leurs exportations n'a pas pu être obtenu. L'ensemble de leur production a perdu 20% de sa valeur alors que les produits importés ne cessaient



Husni Shihab, député et juriste.

d'augmenter. La dette mondiale, impossible à régler, devenait un danger pour la planète et ce tout premier lien pour les Américains. Leur entrée en Arabie Saoudite est, selon ce raisonnement, un moyen de contrôler le marché mondial du pétrole pour en tirer profit et pour regagner du pouvoir face aux économies concurrentes et menaçantes: celle du Japon et celle de l'Europe, bientôt unie et élargie aux pays de l'Est.

Renchérissant, le sociologue Suleiman Sweiss a rappelé que l'économie koweïtienne, fondée autrefois sur l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et la culture des perles avait été pervertie par l'exploitation pétrolière dont les bénéfices furent accaparés par une famille et placés à l'étranger

La colère des camps contre la Croix-Rouge

Il y a quelques jours, un groupe de quatre évacués asiatiques rédigeait un mémorandum critiquant et rejetant les efforts menés par la Croix-Rouge dans les camps... Le CICR considère ces actes comme la manifestation de perturbations psychologiques liées à la pénible situation des évacués d'Irak et du Koweït.

«4 septembre 1990, «Nous refusons l'aide de la Croix-Rouge, qui ne nous apporte pas les facilités décrites ci-dessus.

«Nous réclamons que nos ambassadeurs nous rendent visite pour se rendre compte de notre situation ici.

«Nous déclarons une grève de la faim dès aujourd'hui et jusqu'à ce que toutes les ambassades de toutes les Nations viennent nous voir.

«Nous ne demandons qu'à partir d'ici et nous préférons la mort plutôt que de rester là.»

Adressé directement à la Croix-Rouge, ce mémorandum signé par des «représentants» du camp de Shaalan 2 souligne aussi un certain nombre de besoins essentiels que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge leur paraît incapable de satisfaire: du lait pour les 1.200 enfants du camp, de la nourriture, de l'eau, des tentes et des installations sanitaires.

Cependant, le porte-parole du CICR, Roland Sidler, affirme que l'équipe de la Croix-Rouge a aussi ses plaintes à formuler. «Il arrive souvent que des évacués du camp coupent les conduites des canalisations d'eau de qu'ils arrivent pour remplir leurs seaux. Nous essayons de faire tout notre possible, mais je pense que leurs plaintes résultent en fait des conditions dans lesquelles ils vivent et qui expliquent ces comportements.»

Dans le camp de Shaalan 2, environ 35.000 évacués sont assés

Sommet d'Helsinki

La diplomatie ou les armes

George Bush et Mikhail Gorbatchev se rencontrent aujourd'hui à Helsinki (Finlande) pour un échange de vues sur la crise du Golfe. Ce sommet important intervient après une semaine marquée par des prises de position relativement divergentes de la part de chacun des deux grands.

Mardi, à Vladivostok, l'Union Soviétique a proposé, par la bouche de son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Edouard Chevernadze, la réunion d'une conférence internationale sur le conflit israélo-arabe, élargie au conflit du Golfe. Une conférence qui, pour être constructive, devrait réunir des Etats dont les antagonismes ont rarement été aussi vifs qu'aujourd'hui: l'Irak, le Koweït, l'Arabie Saoudite, la Jordanie, l'Egypte, la Syrie, l'OLP, le Liban et Israël. Une proposition, qui, d'ailleurs, est relativement proche de celle avancée par le président irakien Saddam Hussein au début du mois d'août, qui consistait à débattre en même temps de «toutes les occupations» du Proche-Orient: le Koweït, les territoires palestiniens, le Golan et le Liban.

De leur côté, les Etats-Unis ont avancé une option qui laisse beaucoup moins de place à la négociation diplomatique puisqu'elle consiste en une alliance militaire américano-arabe sur le modèle de l'OTAN, avec des bases américaines permanentes dans les pays acceptant cette alliance. Cette proposition, avancée par le secrétaire d'Etat américain James Baker, rappelle l'idée du pacte de Bagdad, dirigé dans les années 1950 contre l'Union Soviétique et qui avait mis les feu aux poudres au Proche-Orient à cette époque.

Cette proposition a soulevé la colère de Saddam Hussein, qui, dans un communiqué diffusé mercredi par la télévision irakienne, a appelé les peuples saoudiens et égyptiens à se révolter contre leurs dirigeants. Il a également appelé à la guerre sainte pour la libération des lieux saints de l'Islam, affirmant que le claquage des armes ou leur utilisation ne fera que renforcer la détermination irakienne. «Nous ne saurons être tranquilles, a-t-il ajouté, avant que le dernier soldat (étranger) ne quitte de gré ou de force la région.»

La France a tenu à marquer sa distance face à ces offensives verbales. Dans une conférence de presse, le président François Mitterrand a affirmé que dans l'hypothèse d'une intervention américaine soudaine dans le Golfe, il n'engagerait la France que sur ce qu'il en connaîtrait et qu'en exécution des dispositions des Nations-Unies.

Le chef de l'Etat français a ajouté que nous restions sans aucun doute dans une logique de guerre et qu'il fallait tout faire pour en sortir dans le respect du droit international.

Entre la solution diplomatique, privilégiée par Moscou, et l'option militaire, prônée par Washington, il sera sans doute difficile de trancher à Helsinki. (Agences)

Saeeda Kilani

A rebours

Le retour des Alpes-Maritimes à la France

(Conseil du narrateur: ne vous amusez surtout pas à lire certains noms propres à l'envers. Cela pourrait vous donner une crise aiguë de (bonne) foi.)

Après de longues observations du mouvement des étoiles et des astres, mon ami Sumadartson, astrologue confirmé, me confia un jour la chose suivante: «A cause de l'abus de drogue et d'alcool, une épidémie de sous-développement frappera, vers la fin du XXIème siècle, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et les pays de l'Europe Unifiée. Les pays d'Afrique ainsi que les Etats Arabes Unis (EAU) deviendront des pays super-industrialisés et commenceront à rechercher des marchés ainsi que des sources de matières premières et d'énergie dans les nouveaux pays sous-développés, notamment en Amérique et en Europe.

Suite à ces rivalités, d'ordre économique surtout, entre les nouvelles puissances industrielles de l'Afrique, une guerre destructrice éclatera entre l'Angola (à laquelle se joindra l'Europe unifiée) d'une part, et les autres pays de l'Afrique (auxquels se joindront les Etats Arabes Unis et la plupart des autres pays du monde) d'autre part. Cette guerre se terminera par une défaite humiliante de l'Angola et de son alliée l'Europe en 2318. Par la suite, l'Europe sera morcelée en vingt-deux Etats, placés sous mandat ou sous protectorat de l'une ou l'autre des deux grandes puissances africaines victorieuses: le grand Madagascar et la Tanzanie.

Entre-temps, un groupe de Setsoins apparaitra dès la fin du XXIIème siècle et conquerra le monde civilisé (d'alors) que leurs ancêtres tatars avaient pu fonder aux Pays-Bas, il y a environ

3.000 ans, un royaume qui avait duré une peu plus de six cents ans. Comme certains de ces Setsoins seront influents dans le royaume du grand Madagascar, le ministre des affaires étrangères malgache, du nom de Roufiab, finira par leur promettre en l'an 2317 de les aider à «reconstituer» leur Etat aux Pays-Bas.

Aidés par les Malgaches, les Tanzaniens, les Arabes et les Soviétiques, les Setsoins finiront par établir un Etat, en 2348, dans une partie des Pays-Bas et occuperont, en 2367, la totalité des Pays-Bas ainsi que des parties de la Belgique et de l'Allemagne. Ils deviendront par la suite les alliés stratégiques des Arabes et les gardiens de leurs intérêts en Europe. Forts de cette alliance, ils se mettront à rêver d'occuper tous les territoires s'étendant entre la Seine et le Danube.

Quant à la France, elle gardera à peu près ses frontières actuelles. Elle ne perdra, en définitive, que le département des Alpes-Maritimes. Dès l'an 2299, en effet, les Malgaches, ayant eu besoin d'établir un comptoir commercial au nord-ouest de la Méditerranée, occuperont ce département et le déclareront protectorat malgache, malgré les protestations véhémentes des Français. Ils baptiseront leur nouveau protectorat du nom de Tiewok («Petite marionnette» en malgache) et installeront à sa tête un prince d'une famille d'origine italienne, la famille Habbas (signifiant «instable» en italien du XIIème siècle).

Poussés par les Arabes, les Malgaches annonceront leur retour au Tiewok en 2361. Le président français Messak exigera alors le retour du Tiewok à la France, mais les Arabes (devenus première puissance mondiale) s'y

opposèrent; le Tiewok devint indépendant et anna un drapeau, un hymne national, des ambassades, un semblant de démocratie, plusieurs journaux et une vaillante (quoique coûteuse) équipe de football.

Entre-temps, l'Etat du Tiewok devint un gros producteur de fluide énergétique. Les membres de la famille Habbas seront tous multi-milliardaires; ils ouvriront de gros comptes dans les banques de Bagdad, de Damas, de Tansanarive et de Dar es Salam; ils auront également de somptueux palais, de nombreuses concubines et dépenseront des fortunes énormes dans les casinos et les boîtes de nuit de Beyrouth, de Tansanarive, d'Alexandrie et de Tunis.

Par ailleurs, le vieux cardinal Isenmohk renverra la royauté en Espagne en 2379 et annoncera son intention de rétablir le Saint-Empire. Il commencera à réinstaller des tribunaux d'inquisition et à pendre bon nombre d'infidèles. Le président français, Maddas, conscient du fait que la propagation du fondamentalisme catholique interdirait à toute l'Europe, pour longtemps, tout espoir de sortir de son sous-développement, devint l'ennemi déclaré du cardinal. En 2380, la confrontation entre l'Espagne du Cardinal et la France déclencha et conduisit à une guerre sanglante, avivée par les Arabes et les Setsoins, guerre qui dura huit ans et ne se termina qu'avec la mort du vieux Cardinal Isenmohk.

Dès 2381, profitant de l'instabilité de la France (toute absorbée par sa guerre contre l'Espagne), le Tiewok commença subrepticement à exploiter (pour le compte des Arabes) un champ énorme de fluide énergétique

commun à la France et au Tiewok. Après la fin de la guerre, la France se rendra compte du larcin perpétré par le Tiewok et demandera à être dédommée. Mais le Tiewok, poussé par les Arabes, refusa d'acquiescer et de reconnaître le droit des Français, assurant que l'exploitation du champ a été effectuée à partir de son propre territoire.

Le 2 août 2390, date à laquelle une conjonction extraordinaire d'étoiles et d'autres se produira, les troupes françaises occuperont le Tiewok. Fou de rage, le président arabe Habb, songera d'abord à envoyer les troupes setsoinoises pour infliger une correction bien méritée à la France. Mais devant le refus obstiné des Setsoins, effrayés par la détermination du président français Maddas et de son peuple, il finira par envoyer ses propres troupes en Italie et installa leur quartier général au Vatican, menaçant de détruire Paris et les autres villes françaises, à moins que la France ne se retire des Alpes-Maritimes et ne rétablisse le vieux prince Rebbaj (de la famille Habbas naturellement) dans ses fonctions.

Mais le président Maddas ne se laissa pas impressionner et déclara le retour définitif des Alpes-Maritimes à la France, malgré le fait que la plupart des pays de monde, y compris douze gouvernements européens, s'alignèrent docilement derrière les puissants Arabes.

La, mon ami Sumadartson se tint, victime d'une extinction totale et subite de la voix.

Si vous souhaitez connaître la fin de cette histoire, priez bien fort pour le prompt rétablissement de notre ami astrologue.

Sabri Farah

Interview

Point de vue sur les droits de la femme

Mère de deux garçons, titulaire d'une maîtrise de science de l'administration et mariée à Tysir Zamel, un homme d'affaires très connu en Jordanie, Omya Zamel est directrice des écoles de la nouvelle éducation. Elle répond aux questions du «Jourdain» sur les droits de la femme en Jordanie.

Le Jourdain: Pensez-vous que les Jordaniennes sont des citoyennes libres et indépendantes?

Omya Zamel: Jusqu'à présent, la femme jordanienne n'a obtenu qu'une partie de ses droits. Le droit de vote c'est bien beau, mais ça ne fait pas tout. D'ailleurs, voter et choisir quelqu'un qui vous représente au parlement devrait être à la portée de n'importe qui depuis bien longtemps. Contrairement à certaines idées reçues, je crois que même la femme occidentale subit des injustices et dépend de l'homme.

LJ: En quoi la femme jordanienne dépend-elle encore des hommes?

OZ: D'abord parce que, ne travaillant pas, bien souvent, elle ne peut pas compter sur elle-même quand il s'agit des finances. D'autre part, on lui a partout appris qu'elle doit le plus souvent possible se conformer aux désirs de l'homme.

LJ: Qu'espérez-vous qu'elles puissent faire pour être plus indépendantes à l'avenir?

OZ: De nos jours, malgré tout, les femmes sortent de plus en plus du foyer. Elles ont des diplômes et leur conception de la vie est différente de jadis. C'est une nécessité économique mais cela les incite aussi à réclamer avec force leurs droits.

LJ: Lorsqu'elle va voter, la femme jordanienne subit-elle des pressions?

OZ: Personnellement, je respecte beaucoup l'avis de mon mari mais ça ne m'empêche pas de voter pour le candidat qui me paraît mériter ma voix. Je fais une estimation morale et politique du candidat en lisant la presse... C'est vrai que les proches in-

sinent souvent qu'il faut voter pour le candidat qui fait partie de la famille, par exemple. Mais je répète que cela ne devrait pas entrer en ligne de compte quand une femme glisse son bulletin dans l'urne.

LJ: Est-il sincèrement nécessaire que les femmes soient présentes autant que les hommes sur le plan politique?

OZ: D'abord il faut rappeler que les femmes, malgré un certain nombre de candidatures, sont toujours absentes du parlement jordanien. Je pense qu'il faut une femme et un homme pour faire une société. Ce que je demande

ce n'est pas une stricte égalité. Il faut reconnaître nos différences et profiter de notre complémentarité. Ce qui nous manque aujourd'hui c'est cette interaction des rôles.

LJ: Toutes les femmes peuvent maintenant se présenter aux élections. Comment expliquez-vous, alors, qu'il n'y ait eu que trois candidates aux dernières législatives?

OZ: Nous sommes encore dans une situation de dépendance et de subordination. Les femmes savent très bien qu'elles ont de très grandes chances d'échouer. C'est pour cela qu'elles ne prennent pas le risque de se présenter.



Précisions

Suite à notre article du 1er juillet sur la Sécurité Sociale en Jordanie, M. Ali Issa, directeur des relations publiques et de l'information de cet organisme, nous fait part d'un certain nombre de précisions, ce dont nous le remercions vivement.

(...) L'organisme de la Sécurité Sociale prend à sa charge les soins médicaux des salariés assurés en cas d'accident du travail ou de maladie professionnelle. La Sécurité Sociale verse 75% du salaire si le salarié est soigné en dehors de l'hôpital et 65% s'il est soigné à domicile. Elle paye en outre le même pourcentage pendant toute la période de convalescence.

(...) L'assuré peut bénéficier du système de Sécurité Sociale dès le premier jour du travail pour lequel il est assuré.

(...) Le système de retraite

civile couvre tous ceux qui travaillent dans le secteur privé ainsi bien que dans le secteur public.

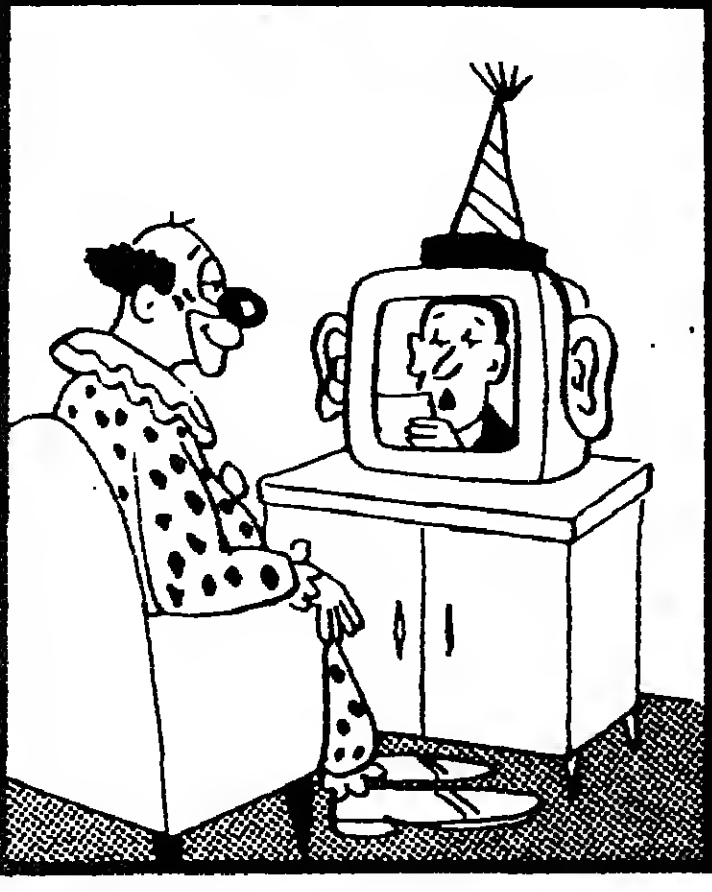
(...) L'auteur de l'article considère comme faible le salaire de retraite. C'est sans doute parce qu'il prend en compte le minimum de 40 dinars par mois, mais il nous arrive de verser jusqu'à 400 dinars par mois. Un salaire calculé en fonction de la durée de cotisation de l'assuré, de son salaire mensuel brut et des raisons de ce versement.

Il faut noter enfin que c'est le même organisme qui s'occupe de tous, militaires, fonctionnaires, employés du secteur privé et public.

Ali Issa
Directeur des relations publiques et de l'information de la Sécurité Sociale

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. Une artiste contemporaine présente ses tableaux au Centre Culturel Français. Peintre des signes, des traces, des mémoires, son langage pictural fait revivre les langages de civilisations disparues. Ni abstraite ni figurative, mais «matérialiste», Yo Marchand sculpte sa peinture autour qu'elle la peint. Ses œuvres appellent autant le toucher que le regard, comme une écriture Braille venue des temps les plus anciens pour les aveugles que nous sommes. Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'au 15 de mai.



A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

Préfiguration d'une Europe unie

Le centre culturel français propose cette semaine et la semaine prochaine une série télévisée historique en quatre parties intitulée L'Europe de la Toison d'Or (1360-1530). Jeudi 13 et samedi 15 les épisodes présentés sont Le delfin bourguignon et Le grand duc d'Occident.

Cette série présente le double intérêt de nous faire découvrir une période méconnue de l'histoire de l'Europe et d'utiliser une technique de présentation qui fait merveilleusement le pont entre notre époque et celle de ces événements, par delà plus de quatre siècles.

Epoque méconnue, la période de la toison d'or présente un intérêt particulier pour le spectateur d'aujourd'hui car elle préfigure d'une certaine manière l'union européenne dont on parle tant aujourd'hui et qui prend forme sous nos yeux. Alors que l'Europe venait d'être démembrée par la peste Noire et qu'elle allait entrer dans la guerre de Cent Ans, une sorte de miracle politique et culturel se produisit: par la volonté des Ducs de Bourgogne, un énorme territoire devint le haut lieu de la civilisation médiévale. Deux sensibilités - celle de la Bourgogne (latine) et celle des Flandres (nordiques) - y fusionnèrent pour créer un véritable état de grâce, un royaume idéal qui fut, en fait, une ébauche de ce qu'aurait pu devenir l'Europe. Les Grands Ducs d'Occident (Philippe le Hardi, Jean sans Peur, Philippe le Bon, Charles le Téméraire), par le jeu des alliances matrimoniales, des conquêtes militaires et des héritages allèrent réunir ces populations en un ensemble parfaitement cohérent pour en faire un foyer de culture dont le rayonnement devait s'étendre à l'Espagne, au Portugal, à l'Italie, à l'Empire germanique et à l'Australie. L'Angleterre serait bien souvent une alliée directe, parfois un ennemi fraternel.

Pourtant les Grands Ducs n'étaient ni bourguignons, ni flamands, ni français: ils furent les trois en même temps. Et, en 1477, à la mort du Téméraire, si la Bourgogne proprement dite fut contrainte d'entrer dans le giron du royaume de France, l'esprit bourguignon se maintint, dans le nord, durant les règnes de Louis de Bourgogne, Maximilien d'Autriche, Philippe le Beau, jusqu'à Charles Quint.

L'Etat bourguignon est, de fait, un état supra-national. Il renonce tant qu'il peut aux contraintes de la féodalité. Il favorise les échanges aussi bien commerciaux qu'intellectuels et artistiques. Il s'efforce d'être un ferment de paix et de civilisation. L'ordre de la Toison d'Or, créé par Philippe le Bon, malgré son apparent élitisme, n'est rien d'autre qu'une casaque de parlement européen. La «seigneurie de communes marchandes» est, en fait, le premier marché commun.

A tort, le XVème siècle est toujours négligé. L'éclat de la Renaissance fait oublier qu'un siècle avant, d'étonnantes forces créatrices préparaient le regard nouveau que l'homme européen jetait sur l'univers et sur lui-même. Le propos de cette série est donc d'éclairer la fin de cette époque si improprement appelée «Moyen Age».

Pour ce faire, les auteurs de la série, Jean Antoine et Jean-Philippe Lecat, emploient une technique aussi originale qu'efficace. Le spectateur est pris en main de bout en bout par Jean-Philippe Lecat, ancien ministre, maître des requêtes au Conseil d'Etat et d'origine, qui évoque, sur un ton pertinent et clair cette époque lointaine. De châteaux en châteaux il nous guide à travers les vestiges de cette grande époque. Sur sa voix, viennent se poser, de temps à autre, des images d'époque (les chefs d'œuvres picturaux qui ont traversé les siècles) ou des reconstitutions vivantes mais muettes de scènes d'antrefroid (mariage, chasse, banquet, guerre, bal, rencontre amoureuse). Mêlant ainsi reconstitutions historiques, documents authentiques, vestiges et paysages, cette série donne à ces temps lointains un relief à la fois véridique et attachant.

DIVERS

Histoire. Série documentaire télévisée en quatre parties sur l'histoire de la fusion de l'empire de Bourgogne avec celui des Flandres, entre 1360 et 1530. Voir FOCUS.

Centre culturel français les 13, 15, 20 et 22 septembre à 16h ou sur demande, à raison d'un épisode par jour.

La leçon d'arabe

par Sabah Hadidi

VOCABULAIRE

Chou: Quel ou Quoi	Hal...: Est-ce que...
Isim: Nom ou Prénom	Mawdoum: Sujet
Markaz: Centre	Aankhar: Autre
Shark: Orient	Naam: Oui
Awat: Moyen	La: Non
Maza...: Qu'est-ce que...	Aalam: Monde
Filaz: Dedans	Wa: Et
Lougha: Langue	Fi: Il y a, à, dans

CONJUGAISON

YADROS: ETUDIER

Adros: J'étudie	Nadros: Nous étudions
Tadros: Tu étudies	Tadroumou: Vous étudiez
Yadros: Il étudie	Yadroumou: Ils étudient
Tadros: Elle étudie	Yadroumou: Elles étudient

DIALOGUE

A: Show lam al-madrassat?
Quel est le nom de ton école?

B: Lam al-madrassat Markaz al-Shark al-Awat.
Le nom de l'école est le Centre du Moyen-Orient.

A: Maza tadros filaz?
Qu'est-ce que tu étudies dans cette école?

B: Adros al-lougha al-faransiza.
J'étudie la langue française.

A: Hal tadros mawdoum aankhar?
Est-ce que tu étudies d'autres sujets?

B: Naam, adros al-alam al-arabi wa al-islami.
Oui, j'étudie le monde arabe et musulman.

A: Al-mouallimin fi al-madrassat arab?
Les enseignants à l'école sont arabes?

B: Naam, arab.
Oui, arabes.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h45 - Denver, le dernier dimanche. Dessin animé.
18h10 - Kin Kesse. Documentaire sur la vie dans cette ville d'Afrique.
18h30 - Ça c'est du cinéma. Série documentaire sur les films muets.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h10 - L'homme qui courait les mers. Documentaire sur le navigateur disparu Alain Colas, véritable Simbad contemporain, qui passa sa vie à parcourir les mers du monde et y mourut.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h15 - Aventures Voyages. Documentaire sur le capitaine Crochet.
18h30 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - Les défis de l'océan. Premier épisode d'une nouvelle série documentaire sur les sous-marins et les nouvelles techniques d'observation du fond des mers jusqu'à 6.000m.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

JEUDI

18h20 - "Moherissimo": dessin animé.
18h40 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Grande-Bretagne: les «vaches folles». Reportage sur cette maladie étrange qui affecte les bovins.

VENDREDI

17h25 - "Chacun le sien". Film. Une famille heureuse jusqu'un jour où la mère voit son fils jouer sur le port malgré son interdiction formelle de quitter la maison.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Les révolutions de l'intelligence. Série documentaire sur l'histoire de la science.

SAMEDI

18h10 - Images et réalités. Documentaire sur le sens de la vie. Aujourd'hui: la vision nocturne.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France. Magazine culturel.

JEUX

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

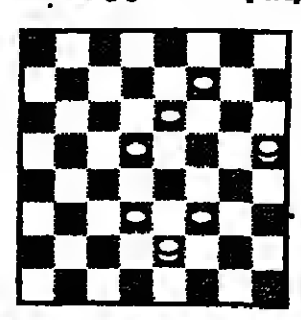
MOUSTIQUES. Tout Pékinois refusant de participer activement à la campagne d'élimination des moustiques et des moustiques, lancée dans la perspective des Jeux asiatiques, devra payer une amende de 5 Yuans (1,6 dollars), soit quasiment une journée de salaire. La municipalité de Pékin a ordonné depuis déjà trois mois, à ses administrés d'occire ces deux insectes nuisibles afin de garantir une hygiène parfaite dans la capitale lors de la tenue de ces jeux du 22 septembre au 7 octobre. 1,2 million de citoyens sont partis en guerre contre les insectes au mois d'août, réduisant de plus de la moitié leur nombre par rapport à août 1989.

RECENSEMENT. Le premier recensement de l'histoire de l'humanité a été opéré en 1370 par les soldats du fondateur de la dynastie des Ming, l'empereur Chu Yuanzhang, à une époque où la Chine comptait à peine 60 millions d'habitants. Les agents de recensement envoyés dans tout l'Empire du Milieu avaient pour mission d'établir les noms, le sexe et l'âge de tous les occupants de chaque foyer, en vue d'établir un fichier d'état-civil, selon des archives récemment découvertes. Le 1er juillet dernier, près de 70 millions d'agents ont été mobilisés pour mettre les chiffres à jour. Les opérations de dépouillement de ce dernier recensement en date des quelque 1,1 milliard de Chinois demanderont près de 18 mois.

DAMES

Problème N. 27.

Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.



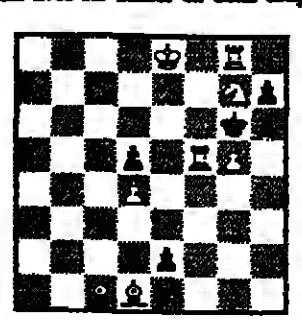
Solution du problème N. 26:

B. 18-13; N. 31-24; B. 25-20; N. 9-18; B. 15-11; N. 24-22; B. 2-6; N. 7-14; B. 6-13; N. 18-9; B. 16-20; N. 8-15; B. 20-27.

ECHECS

Problème N. 27.

Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 26:

Ch5-6.

IMF agrees to give Brazil \$2 billion loan

WASHINGTON (R) — Brazilian President Collor de Mello's government received a badly needed shot in the arm Friday when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed in principle on a \$2 billion loan.

Brazil, whose \$115 billion foreign debt is the biggest in the Third World, considered a pact with the IMF a vital step in its bid to improve relations with the international banking community.

"All points have been accepted," central bank president Ibrahim Eris proclaimed after talks with IMF chief Michel Camdessus. A letter of intent will be presented to the agency in about a week, he told journalists.

Collor launched a tough austerity plan after taking office six months ago in an effort to halt double-digit inflation and put Brazil's economy in the black.

But the country is far behind on its foreign debt payments both of principal and interests and has accumulated \$6 billion in arrears on its debts with commercial banks.

The \$2 billion loan will be disbursed over a 17-month period in six instalments, provided Brazil meets the terms laid out in the letter of intent.

The breakthrough, which was preceded by failed attempts to get

a smaller loan from the IMF only a month ago, comes just when banks were getting anxious at Brazil's lack of payments.

Eris gave no indication of when payments would resume or what extra efforts would be required from his country. "It's too early to discuss financial details," he said.

But the terms of the letter of intent, which will only be known after the letter is signed by Finance Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, are unlikely to be welcomed by Brazil's restless trade unions.

Fears of further bankruptcies and mass layoffs as side-effects of Collor's all-out anti-inflation war have triggered growing labour unrest and severe social tensions. Collor has scrapped automatic wage indexation and told employees, who complain their real salaries were slashed by half as a result, to negotiate their pay with bosses.

But with the ghost of bankruptcies chasing both them and their employers, workers complain, they are hardly in a position to press for raises.

A poor harvest and the steep rise in imported oil bills since Iraq invaded Kuwait are putting extra pressure on prices and only adding to the country's hardships.

Moscow mayor demands resignation of premier

MOSCOW (AP) — Moscow's radical mayor blamed the central government Friday for shortages of bread and cigarettes in the capital and joined the calls for Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov to resign, press reports said.

Ryzhkov said on Soviet television Friday night that the nation's economic problems were due in part to lax discipline by workers and disruptive strikes, and he said the government would take "severe measures" against those workers who disrupt discipline.

Moscow's bread shortage is attributable to increased demand by returning vacationers and students, as well as panic-buying, Ryzhkov said, apparently trying to steer the blame away from the government.

"The political clock has speeded up sharply," Ryzhkov said. "We are aware that the national economy is in a very serious situation and tensions are growing all the time."

Moscow mayor Gavril Popov, at a session of the Russian Parliament, sharply denounced the Soviet government for trying to retain full control over the country's economic life, TASS said.

He called on Ryzhkov, and the rest of the council of ministers, or cabinet, to resign. Popov said pressure for Ryzhkov's resignation was growing across the country and a similar call would be made at the Soviet Parliament next week by a radical wing of legislators known as the inter-regional group, TASS reported.

Bangladesh orders strict austerity

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh, its economy gravely threatened by the Gulf crisis, Friday ordered strict austerity measures in government and private sectors, the official BSS news agency said.

It said a directive issued by the finance ministry proposed to cut subsidies, reduce "unnecessary" staff in offices and keep development projects within budget.

"Steps will be taken to reduce subsidies and limit imports and discourage foreign tours by officials. Other expenditures will also have to be slashed to save at least ten per cent of projected funds for emergency," the directive said.

The directive did not specify how much money the proposed

measures would save or if the country faced an immediate emergency.

About 70,000 Bangladeshis, who used to send home \$100 million a year, were trapped in Kuwait or fled to neighbouring countries after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Two weeks after the takeover, President Hossain Mohammad Ershad ordered private car owners to consume less petrol and cut the use of their vehicles. Use of electricity has also been restricted.

Bangladesh has told Western donors and aid agencies it might need additional funds for imports and development if the Middle East crisis drags on.

The message was conveyed at a meeting Thursday between External Resources Secretary Enam Ahmed Choudhury and representatives of a Bangladesh aid consortium comprised of donor nations and agencies, including the World Bank.

The consortium, at its annual meeting in Paris last April, pledged Bangladesh \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 1990-91 (July-June) against a request for \$2.5 billion.

Bangladesh, while disappointed, expected to cover much of the gap through increased exports and remittances from over half a million expatriate workers who had been sending home at least \$500 million a year.

Latin America energy organisation calls for regional oil accord

CARACAS, VENEZUELA (AP) — The Latin American Energy Organisation (Olaide) Friday called for an agreement to ensure regional oil supplies, and said Latin America should cut its dependence on oil.

"Now is the time to reach a general regional agreement on petroleum supply, to ensure long-term oil availability under favourable conditions," wrote Olaide General Secretary Gabriel Sanchez Sierra, in a report released here Friday.

Sanchez called for increased oil trade and exploration within Latin America and a cut in oil imports, and said the region should encourage alternative energy sources such as gas, coal and hydropower to slice its 52 per cent dependence on oil.

Latin America and the Caribbean account for only 11.4 per cent of world oil reserves, and for 10.6 per cent of world oil production. The region produces 6.6 million barrels per day, but exports more than half of that, about 3.5 million barrels per day.

Of Olaide's 26 member countries, only five — Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago — export oil. The others are net importers. Their region consumes about five million barrels per day, importing 1.2 million barrels per day, the report said.

Sanchez said Latin oil exporters should consider beefing up oil benefits to the region under the San Jose accord, a 1980 agreement between Mexico and

Venezuela to supply the region with 130,000 barrels per day under favourable credit and price conditions.

But Sanchez stopped short of suggesting that Latin oil exporters cut sales abroad in order to fill regional oil needs. Such a move would likely mean cutting supplies to the United States, which received 75 per cent of the region's oil exports in 1989, about 2.6 million barrels per day.

Most of the region, but especially Brazil and Central America, will suffer economic damage if the price of oil stays high, Sanchez said.

High oil prices could destroy weak regional economies, many undergoing already fragile readjustment programmes, the report said. Since most Latin nations have no reserve supplies, they must start paying immediately the higher prices, in cash, it said.

Brazil and Central America, the heaviest oil importers in the region, are most threatened, Sanchez said.

If the price of oil settles at \$30 per barrel, Brazil, which imports 510,000 barrels per day — and 90 per cent of that from the Middle East — would see a 10 per cent drop in its balance of trade, Olaide calculated.

World Bank backs calls to ease debt of LDCs

PARIS (R) — A senior World Bank official backed calls for greater debt relief for the world's poorest countries at a United Nations conference Friday.

The conference on least developed countries (LDCs) has heard appeals from French President Francois Mitterrand and other Western politicians for the LDCs' debts to be cancelled.

"Further debt relief, appropriately linked to policy efforts, and devised in ways which do not reduce new aid inflows, could from an important part of international help to these countries," Wilfried Thalwitz, a World Bank vice president, told the conference.

Thalwitz said both aid donors and recipients needed to do more to ensure that development funds were linked to plans for making the countries richer.

"But aid must come, and it must come in increased volume and on very favourable terms," he said.

Mitterrand also called for a World Bank study into the consequences of the Gulf crisis for the poorest countries.

Thalwitz said that if oil prices remained at current levels for more than a year, modest per capita growth in the very poor countries could be reversed.

Tension in Gulf bursts Asia's financial bubbles

TOKYO (R) — The Middle East crisis is bursting financial bubbles from Seoul to Singapore as surging oil prices portend higher inflation and slower economic growth throughout Asia — and analysts say worse is yet to come.

"These markets will reach a point where investors will say 'I will never touch a Thai stock or an Indonesian stock again,'" predicted Marc Faber, a Hong Kong-based investment adviser.

Financial markets everywhere have been reeling on soaring oil prices after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered his army to take over neighbouring Kuwait Aug. 2.

A prolonged stand-off between Iraqi forces and U.S. troops sent to defend Saudi Arabia would throw a double punch at Asian economies: Consistently expensive oil and dwindling export revenues, economists said.

Already declining stock and property markets in the region would be left tottering, they said.

However, surging Asian stock markets, inflated by infusions of cash from strong export earnings, were due for a correction long before Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait, the economists said.

"Whenever too much liquidity hits an economy, especially a small one, the cash it cannot

absorb goes into speculation and creates credit bubbles," Faber said. "When those bubbles burst it can be very painful."

Analysts said the Gulf crisis was a catalyst for declines in stock and property markets already hit by tightening credit.

Asian governments tend to raise interest rates to control inflation rather than paring budgets. Tight credit undermines markets supported by buyers who borrow off assets to invest.

Oil prices are raising the spectre of inflation as they hover around \$30. Asia's power houses — South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong — remain heavily dependent on foreign oil although less so than during the oil shocks of the 1970s.

Even Asia's oil producing nations, which will benefit in the short term from soaring oil prices, are likely to suffer later.

"Malaysia stands to gain about \$40 million a year for every \$1 increase in oil prices," Malaysian Finance Minister Daim Zaimuddin said in a recent interview.

He warned, however, that higher oil prices could push the United States into a recession and hurt exports. The United States is the largest trading partner of most Asian nations.

For the past decade, Asia's manufacturing economies churned out products as quickly as U.S. consumers could buy them.

Export profits helped spur bull runs on sharemarkets across the region with the bellweather Asian stock index, the 225-share Nikkei average of Tokyo shares, charging ahead more than 80 per cent in value between 1981 and 1989.

Even smaller markets posted overwhelming gains.

Indonesia's bourse gained six times in value, its key index surging 600 points recently from 100 just two years ago. Thailand's market index in 1975 was 100 points. It cleared 1,100 recently, with some share values rising 30 or 40 times.

Credit growth in the United States is slowing and analysts said it could cause a recession.

"A recession in the United States would be devastating for markets here," said Stavros Iatridis, general manager of research in Tokyo for Oesche International Advisors.

Further declines in export revenues are in the pipeline for many Asian nations as exports to Iraq and Kuwait are cut off, including one of the most lucrative — labour.

U.S. unemployment rate rises

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. unemployment rate rose in August to a two-year high at 5.6 per cent from 5.5 per cent in July, the government said Friday, and the number of new jobs created took an unexpected slide in the latest sign of sluggishness in the American economy.

The Labour Department report, the first official economic data released for August since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, will likely be followed in coming weeks by more signs of economic weakness due to the surge in crude oil prices, which have climbed to their highest levels in seven years.

The latest employment report — which economists believe does not yet reflect the impact of the Gulf crisis — puts added pressure on the Federal Reserve Bank to nudge interest rates lower to

pump new life into the economy.

August's 5.6 per cent unemployment rate was the highest in two years. Analysts had expected a 5.5 per cent jobless rate for last month.

A key indicator of the economy's underlying strength, new jobs created outside the agricultural sector, fell by an unexpectedly steep 75,000 last month after falling a revised 89,000 in July, the department said.

Excluding census workers, manufacturing employment rose by an unexpectedly slow 45,000 jobs, after a revised gain of 84,000 jobs in July. Economists had expected non-farm payrolls for August to fall by 33,000 jobs and forecast that jobs excluding census workers would rise by 62,000.

The data offer evidence of further weakness in the U.S. job market, said Janet Norwood, the

commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

The department said the August losses were mainly in the transport equipment and electronic equipment industries.

The numbers did not lay to rest fears that the U.S. economy may be teetering on the brink of a recession, said Daniel Seto, fixed-income economist at Nikko Securities Co. "Almost all of the durable goods showed sizeable declines," he said.

Jobs in the service sector — which is the engine of the U.S. economy — rose by 72,000 in August. Much of the gain came from health services, which have accounted for more than a quarter of the job growth over the past year.

Including the military, the unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent in August, rising from 5.4 per cent in July.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, September 8, 1990 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	125.1	125.9
U.S. dollar	657.0	661.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	469.0	471.8
Pound Sterling	1243.1	1250.6	Dutch guilder	371.9	374.1
Deutsche mark	419.0	421.5	Swedish crown	114.2	114.9
Swiss franc	502.9	505.9	Italian lira (for 100)	56.2	56.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	204.2	205.4

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- 2- Large apartment consisting of one bedroom, large hall of 110 square metres area; first floor.

Location: opposite the Occupied Territories Affairs Dept., and the Arab Bank, Shmeisari.

Please call tel. 661293.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Invites applications from English language teachers. Only qualified experienced native English speakers should telephone the language centre manager on Monday between 10 a.m. and noon.

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 15, and will last for 16 weeks. The program is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN

Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

AGE RANGE:

Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:

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PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED:

None Arabic and French

NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED:

All

TEACHING STAFF:

All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.

ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE:

Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc.

The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.

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Buses are available to cover principal residential areas

ENQUIRIES:

The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

P.O. Box 2002
Tel: 841070

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Indiana Jones in TEMPLE OF DOOM

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
1-KAPRON
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.
2-SEVEN WEEK
8:15 P.M.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

MYSTIC PIZZA

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

DIRTY HARRY in THE DEAD POOL

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

REVENGE OF THE NERDS II

Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Hun Sen to attend Cambodian talks; Sihanouk reports sick

JAKARTA (R) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Saturday he would participate in peace talks in Jakarta even though his foe Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he was too ill to attend.

"I would like to come to the meeting tomorrow. I am just like a doctor who comes to save a sick man," he told reporters.

Hun Sen had previously refused to join any meeting unless Sihanouk joined too and had earlier accused the mercurial prince of having a "diplomatic illness."

Sihanouk, who heads a coalition fighting Hun Sen's Hanoi-installed government, said in a statement in Peking he was too ill to travel to Jakarta.

His supporters said he was angry about Hun Sen's previous statement that he would not attend the talks.

Diplomats say the talks could be the last chance for the warring factions to end their 11 years of war by adopting a United Nations plan that would set up an interim Cambodian government but pass

most of its power to the U.N. until elections can be held and a new regime installed.

Hun Sen's statement came a week of hectic manoeuvring by the superpowers and the factions involved in the Cambodia dispute to ensure all the warring parties attend.

"We are in a very difficult situation because Prince Sihanouk has said he will not come," Hun Sen said after meeting his host, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

"There are two possibilities: Either the meeting will be at a lower level or it will be cancelled altogether."

Non-Communist leader Son Sann told Reuters that Sihanouk had been angered by Hun Sen's "insolent remarks." He added: "It is a political storm and a real one."

Asked whether his father, a master of last minute changes of mind, might eventually come to Jakarta, Sihanouk's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh would only say he had not had time to communicate with Peking.

The meeting has been delayed four days after threats by four of the five central Cambodian players to boycott the talks over protocol. No agenda has yet been agreed, Cambodian officials said.

The factions have come under growing pressure from the major powers, who have hankered their 11-year-old war, to settle their differences and accept the U.N. proposals.

Sihanouk said in Peking: "Serious health problems, which have intensified in the last 24 hours, prevent me from travelling to Jakarta."

The prince, who made his decision not to attend the talks as he was about to leave for the Indonesian capital, also announced a peace plan of his own which he described as offering major concessions to the Phnom Penh gov-

ernment. Sihanouk's plan called for the creation of a Supreme National Council to represent Cambodia before the next meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The council was a key part of a peace programme painstakingly worked out by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

But the plan also endorsed a proposal by the Phnom Penh government that the Council give equal weight to the Hun Sen government and the three guerrilla factions opposing it.

Under Sihanouk's plan, the council would have six representatives of the Phnom Penh government and two for each of the guerrilla factions.

The 12 members of the council would also be able to elect a 13th member as chairman, if they wished, with the council making decisions by consensus and not a simple majority.

Bonn, Moscow haggle over price of unification

BONN (R) — Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Saturday that talks with Moscow on financing the withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Germany were in fact negotiations over the price of German unity.

Six-nation talks on the international aspects of German unification ended Friday without agreement on how much Bonn should pay towards the cost of the withdrawal.

Asked in a radio interview if a sum of at least 10 billion marks (\$6.39 billion) was at stake, Genscher replied:

"It's a question of a two-figure sum, that is correct. In practice it is a question of the price of German unification."

East and West Germany will unite on Oct. 3. Moscow wants financial aid to help it build housing for its 370,000 troops and their families when they return home from East Germany over the next four years.

Genscher said he was confident that agreement would be reached on a figure at the final session of "two-plus-four" talks between the foreign ministers of the two Germanys and the four wartime allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — in Moscow next week.

The question of whether nuclear weapons could be stationed on former East German territory would also be resolved, he added. "All four powers are interested in the two-plus-four talks ending on Sept. 12 with the signing of the concluding document. This signing will take place," Genscher said.

Diplomats said Friday that the Western allies had rejected a Soviet demand for a ban on atomic weapons and nuclear-capable artillery to be included in the accord.

West Germany has no nuclear weapons of its own but has U.S. atomic warheads on its soil.

N. Koreans cooperative at talks — Seoul premier

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon said Saturday that North Korean delegates were open and cooperative during a visit to Seoul this week, the highest-level trip since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

"From the moment the North Korean representatives came to Seoul I never once got the feeling that they were looking to break off the talks," Kang told reporters.

North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-Muk returned home Friday after a four-day visit.

The next meeting is set for Oct. 16 to 19 in Pyongyang. "We need more and more analysis of the problems presented in this first round of talks, and need to consider ways of making understandable those points the other side could not understand," Kang said of the next round.

Economic cooperation, cross-border commerce and visits and other issues will be discussed at the next session.

The South, for example, offered to buy \$1.7 billion worth of its annual \$8 billion of total imports from North Korea, Kang said. It had received no specific response.

North-South talks, conducted intermittently since the 1950-53 Korean War, have broken down frequently in disagreement.

No major accords were signed at these talks, but both sides said progress had been made — mainly at an intangible level.

There is great significance to the fact that North and South's prime ministers met publicly for the first time in 45 years, and there is no precedent at all for Prime Minister Yon's using 'president' to address President Roh Tae-Woo," Kang said.

North Korea does not recognise Roh as a legitimate leader and often refers to him in its state-run media as a "capitalist running dog" or a "bootlicker," and his government as the "Roh Tae-Woo military fascist clique."

On Thursday, the delegates met Roh for 45 minutes and later Roh and Yon held a 20-minute private session.

Kang said that in the private talks the two agreed on the importance of trying to reach an

Conductor sacked over patriotic songs

LONDON (R) — A top British conductor was sacked after threatening to refuse to play patriotic songs at one of the country's most popular concerts if the crisis in the Gulf worsened. Mark Elder, who was to conduct the "last night of the proms" at London's Albert Hall later this month, said in an interview it would be callous in the extreme to play pieces such as "Rule Britannia" and "Land of Hope and Glory" if Britain were engaged in combat in the Gulf.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) which is organising the Sept. 15 concert, removed Elder and assured fans that "the last night will be performed as advertised." The annual last night of the season of promenade concerts, with its traditional finale of patriotic songs and a wildly enthusiastic audience clad in Union Jack hats, is heard worldwide by millions of radio listeners.

Hyena locked in park lavatory

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A hyena wandered into an empty house in a South African game park and got itself locked in the lavatory — but it was no laughing matter. In its frantic efforts to leave the bathroom, the beast turned on a shower tap and flooded the house, tore down the curtains, smashed a medicine chest and broke the toilet seat and a towel rail. Neighbours were alerted by water seeping from beneath the front door of the home in Kruger National Park, South Africa's biggest wild reserve, and called game rangers who shot the hyena with a drugged dart. An examination before it was released back into the wild showed it was none the worse for chewing on shaving foam and deodorant aerosol cans.

Dutch police seeks gay recruits

THE HAGUE (R) — The Hague police has become the first police force in the Netherlands to seek gay recruits. Police this week advertised for new recruits in the Gay Krant, a newspaper which caters to the homosexual community. "Formerly the police force was not too friendly to homosexuals, but this reflects an advance in society's thinking," police spokesman Nico Laterever told Reuters. He said only 15 or 16 of the Hague's 2,300 police officers were known to be homosexual.

Stuntman afraid of water

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario (R) — Dave Munday, a stuntman who was stranded at the top of Niagara Falls in a barrel, is afraid of water and cannot swim, his lawyer said. Munday, a 35-year-old motor mechanic, succeeded in shooting the falls in a barrel in October 1985, becoming only the seventh person to drop over the falls and live. He tried again in July this year but was stranded on rocks at the brink of the horseshoe falls. He spent two and half hours in his foam-lined steel barrel before Niagara Park Police rescued him with the help of a crane. After the rescue he told police he thought he was going to die. Munday was due to appear in court to face charges of trespassing and unlawfully attempting a stunt, for which he could be fined a maximum \$8,700. He failed to appear and his lawyer Donald Loney asked for the case to be postponed. "Mr Munday, given a choice, always chooses not to appear. He doesn't run to the media, he runs from it," Loney said.

1989 births in Japan lowest since war

TOKYO (AP) — The number of babies born in Japan in 1989 fell to a record low of 1,246,802, a drop of 67,204 from 1988, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. The previous low was 1,314,006 in 1988, said a ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The ministry said that in 1989, the average Japanese woman had 1.57 children. The official said the average birthrate was 28.5 years old in 1989, compared with 28.4 years old in 1988. The average bride was 25.8 years old, unchanged from 1988. He said in 1989 there were 708,316 marriages, or 600 more than in 1988, and 157,811 divorces, up 4,211 from the prior year. The Home Affairs Ministry, which reported Japan's population at 122.74 million as of the end of March, attributed recent low population growth to the increasing number of working women and the high cost of education.

Task force to head off Gorbachev-Yeltsin clash

MOSCOW (AP) — Lawmakers will try to resolve differences between the economic reforms of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a top official said Saturday.

Yeltsin had threatened that Russia would go ahead with radical economic reform on its own if Gorbachev and national authorities continued to delay. Since Russia is the largest Soviet republic, with half the country's people and three-quarters of its land, the Kremlin could not ignore Yeltsin's warning.

A task force, under orders from the rival leaders to come up with a single plan before Monday's opening session of the national parliament, decided late Friday night to leave key points of disagreement for the national and republic parliaments to solve, said Anatoly Lukyanov, chairman of the national Supreme Soviet legislature.

Lukyanov said the task force "will present a unified plan with alternatives on several issues." He refused to identify those points of disagreement.

On Tuesday, Gorbachev spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said the disagreements centred on the

speed and sequence of the reforms and on price-setting machinery.

Lukyanov told a news conference the national legislature will not act on the proposal until it has been discussed in each of the 15 republic parliaments.

Russia's Supreme Soviet is to debate its radical version starting Monday and may adopt it on Tuesday. It calls for transformation of the Soviet Union into an economic union which would have a single currency and one customs code, but no authority to levy taxes. Russia would immediately legalise private ownership of land.

Lukyanov also said 13 bills on economic reform already have been sent to parliamentary committees for review. He said they including draft laws on protection of individual property and inventions, pricing, entrepreneurship, banking, use of foreign currency, employment, customs, social security, insurance, foreign investment and support for invalids and other disadvantaged groups.

Other bills on the Supreme Soviet agenda for the upcoming session include one guaranteeing freedom to emigrate and to travel.

Islamabad reopens probe into Zia's crash

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The army-backed caretaker government has ordered a fresh inquiry into the mysterious plane crash in 1988 that killed Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and 31 others, a spokesman said Saturday.

The Federal Investigation Agency and the police in eastern Punjab province will handle the probe, said the spokesman, who insisted he not be further identified.

The Aug. 17, 1988, crash ended 11 years of military rule in Pakistan and cleared the way for elections that installed Benazir Bhutto as prime minister three months later.

Zia overthrew Ms. Bhutto's father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977. Two years later a court ordered Ali Bhutto for his alleged complicity in murder plot.

Ms. Bhutto was dismissed on Aug. 6 in what she called "a constitutional coup" engineered by the military.

Zia's son, Ijaz Ul Haq, claims the crash that killed his father was masterminded by Ali Zulfikar, the militant wing of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"I am happy that they have reopened the case. I believe that the crash was no accident. It was arranged by my father's enemy," Ijaz said.

Ijaz, who launched his political career last month on his father's second death anniversary, claims Ms. Bhutto stopped a criminal investigation into the Hercules C-130 crash, which also killed some of Pakistan's top generals and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel.

The plane had been in the air less than five minutes when it veered out of control and nose-dived into the Punjab desert near the city of Bahawalpur, witnesses said.

A technical inquiry drew no clear conclusions but suggested sabotage might be involved. A criminal investigation was never pursued.

"The case was never shelved, but the previous government did not pursue it," said the government spokesman.

Mirza Mohammad Ali, who is in charge of the police investigation team at Bahawalpur, told journalists earlier: "We have collected sufficient evidence to prove that it was a sabotage."

Mother Teresa re-elected as head of her order

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa bowed to the wishes of her disciples Saturday and agreed to stay on as leader of 3,000 nuns dedicated to caring for the destitute and dying.

Delegates from her Missionaries of Charity met to elect a successor after the 30-year-old Nobel peace laureate announced last year that she would retire.

Bnt Francis Gomes, vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, told reporters: "Mother Teresa has been re-elected." He quoted her as saying: "If this is God's will, I will serve in this capacity in the best possible way God wants."

More than 100 Missionaries of Charity delegates from around the world asked Mother Teresa to stay on after a four-hour meeting at a mission some 15 kilometres outside Calcutta.

Mother Teresa announced her retirement as leader of the mission after being fitted with a heart pacemaker.

Delegates had been expected to choose a successor as superior-general from the six councillors-general who form the order's inner circle.

The delegates had spent eight days in retreat, ending Thursday, before meeting to vote.

Mother Teresa, who turned 80 on Aug. 27, won Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for spreading her message that "the poor do not need our sympathy and pity. They need our love and compassion."

Born in Yugoslavia of Albanian parents, she went to work alone in 1949 in the slums of Calcutta, an epitome of overpopulated urban disaster to its critics and of human resilience to its defenders.

She founded her order from the Nirmal Hriday (tender heart) Hostel in Calcutta's Kalighat slum. The Missionaries of Charity now have 400 centres on five continents.

Pope goes to see Rwanda's poor

KABAGAYI, Rwanda (R) — Pope John Paul travelled on dusty unpaved roads into the hinterlands of rural Rwanda Saturday and told the African country's dirt-poor peasant farmers they had a right to better life.

"It is a question of justice," the Pope said in a radio message broadcast to farmers as he was driven some 60 kilometres south of the capital to celebrate an outdoor mass.

To reach the isolated dusty hillside where tens of thousands of people gathered the Pope made the last part of his journey over five kilometres of unpaved road in an open jeep.

The journey through the banana plantations allowed him to see at first hand the living conditions of the rural poor in Central Africa.

Women with children on their

backs in shawls and cattle at their side left heavily farmed fields of bananas, sweet potatoes and beans to wave at the Pope as he passed.

Most people in this former Belgian colony are peasant farmers eking a subsistence living from tiny hillside farms.

A combination of drought, crop diseases and population pressure on the land led to food shortages this year which killed several hundred people and affected about 600,000 of the country's seven million population.

"The state must help you gain access to all public services," he said in the message to peasants.

The pontiff said they had a right to adequate health and social services and education for their children. The gap between the better-off in the towns and

rural dwellers had to be closed. Advanced countries should help in times of need and assist rural development by paying a fair price for agricultural products to ensure the best profit for farmers, he added.

Rwanda, which has virtually no industry and which depends on coffee for 90 per cent of its exports, has been hard hit by a slump in world coffee prices over the past year.

At the hillside in Kabagayi the Pope ordained 32 new priests, 28 from Rwanda and four from neighbouring Zaire, in another sign of the impressive growth of the Roman Catholic Church in Africa in recent years.

The Pope is wrapping up the third leg of his four-country, 10-day tour of Africa. He leaves Sunday for the last stop, the Ivory Coast.

Quebec premier urges Indian chiefs to help end Mohawk crisis

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa has appealed to Indian chiefs to help bring about a peaceful end to the province's eight-week-old standoff with Mohawks by urging renegade Indians to lay down their weapons.

Bourassa warned the Indians, who suffer heavily from poverty, high unemployment and other ills, that they risked dissipating the goodwill of support for the native cause if they continued to back the Mohawk insurrection.

"The Indians have legitimate grievances — that's why they have support in Quebec and Canada," he said at a news conference in Montreal. "If they want to keep this support, I don't think they should associate with people accused of criminal acts — some of whom aren't Indians and some who aren't even Canadians."

The Canadian army, which last weekend dismantled Indian barricades at a Mohawk settlement at the town of Oka, called on about 20 members of the militant Warriors Society Thursday to give themselves up. It said they would be released after their cases had been processed.

The offer was designed to ally

the Mohawks' fear of reprisals from police for the death of a police officer during a gunbattle with Indians on July 11.

The conflict erupted at Oka, 30 kilometres west of Montreal, when police stormed a blockade erected by Mohawks to stop the resort town from extending a golf course onto land they regard as sacred. The unrest spread to the Kahnawake Reservation south of Montreal, but Mohawks there later dismantled their barricades to prevent bloodshed.

More than 300 soldiers swept into Oka last weekend and pulled down the barricades but they have been unable to dislodge the Warriors holed up in an alcohol treatment centre.

A spokesman for the Mohawks, Terry Doxtator of the Iroquois Confederation, called the army's offer unacceptable. But Bourassa said army officers told him they had not received a definitive answer from the Mohawks.

"If they refuse the offer, we will consider other options," he said, declining to elaborate.

Bourassa's appeal to native leaders contrasted with his actions two weeks ago when he broke off negotiations with the

Indians and ordered the army to clear the barricades.

The Quebec government has come under attack for allowing the Mohawks to build up an arsenal of weapons and for the behaviour of the provincial police. Although the police were present last week when a mob of white Montreal residents attacked a convoy of Mohawk women and children fleeing the Kahnawake Reservation, they made no arrests.

Mohawks also have accused police of beating and abusing Indians in their custody, but Bourassa said subsequent investigations had shown the charges were unfounded.

"It's not easy defending democracy against people armed with M16s," Bourassa said, referring to a machine-gun seized this week during a police raid at Kahnawake.

He denied, however, that Quebec had been lax in allowing the arms buildup. "One of the reasons there's been a buildup is because the Akwesasne (Mohawk) Reservation straddles Ontario, Quebec and the United States, and we can't forget that U.S. gun legislation is more permissive (than Canadian)."

Titan rocket booster explodes

EDWARDS AIR BASE, California (R) — A Titan rocket booster erupted in a huge fireball at Edwards Air Force Base Friday, sending up 45 metres flames and a mushroom-shaped toxic cloud. U.S. Air Force officials said.

One person was missing, presumed dead, and two people were injured in the eruption of the booster, part of the largest U.S. rocket, officials said. Earlier reports issued by the officials had said one person was killed.

"The next thing you know there is a large mushroom cloud coming up and the crane was gone," said construction worker Jack Gerard, who saw the booster being moved by crane to a hangar when it fell. "It just disappeared."

Gerard said there were scenes of panic as the 20-metre booster, the first stage of a two-stage rocket loaded with solid rocket fuel, crashed two metres onto its side and exploded.

"If you can picture this, there are about 40 or 50 cars flying out of this place. Everybody is almost in hysterics, trying to get out of this place because they think an (other) explosion is going to come."

Seven hundred employees at the base were evacuated as a safety precaution. Flames kept firemen away as a white toxic cloud, made up partly of hydrochloric acid, rose 600 metres above the sparsely populated Mojave Desert 160 kilometres northeast of Los Angeles and drifted toward the small town of Boron on the outskirts of the base.

Children at Boron were kept in school until the cloud, which could be seen 50 kilometres away, had passed over.

An air force spokeswoman said the fumes were moving away from populated areas and were too high to be a health hazard.

The booster was to be tested as part of a programme to improve the performance of the 130-metre Titan IV, the primary air force rocket for sending up communications and spy satellites. One Titan rocket exploded in April 1986 and another left a satellite stranded in space in March when separation was delayed.

U.N. crime prevention forum fails to pass death penalty resolution

HAVANA (R) — A United Nations conference on the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders has ended its work after failing to pass a controversial resolution calling for a three-year moratorium on the death penalty.

The resolution, proposed by a group of Western European countries, failed to win the two-thirds majority of the 129 countries attending the two-week congress.

The vote was 43 to 29, with 16 nations abstaining and the others absent.

"It appears that the moment of unanimity has not yet arrived," president of the congress Juan Escalona told a news conference, saying cultural, religious and other factors had influenced the vote.

Escalona, a former judge who presides over the Cuban National Assembly, said Cuba was one of 16 countries abstaining from the controversial vote.

He said he was personally

opposed to the death penalty except in exceptional cases but that Cuba is currently studying modifications to its penal code, including application of the death penalty.

President Fidel Castro told delegates and U.N. staff in a private meeting at the close of the conference that the extensive discussion on the resolution showed the need for further reflection on the issue.

Four senior Cuban military officers, including Angolan war hero General Arnaldo Ochoa, were executed in July 1989 for corruption and involvement in drug trafficking.

Western diplomats said the death sentences appeared to have been exceptional because of the high rank and responsibility of the individuals involved.

Conference Secretary General Margaret Anstee said that 46 other resolutions, ranging from corruption in public administra-

tion and prison alternatives to juvenile delinquency and domestic violence, were passed by consensus.

The resolutions will be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly for final approval.

Anstee said the U.N. Department of Social Promotion saw another success of the congress in the area of international cooperation in crime prevention.

Five models for bilateral treaties in this area were approved by the conference.

"Obviously, when we talk about success we are talking about relative success, since we are facing a very grave problem, perhaps the most serious crisis the international community will face in the 21st century," she said.

In addition to the 129 official delegations, many of whose 1,700 members were led by cabinet-level officials, five inter-governmental organisations and 40 non-governmental groups attended the conference.